

SENATOR BEUTLER: How much time is allotted?

SENATOR MOREHEAD: How much time is each case allotted in court once it is before the judge? Do you know how much time the judge allows?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I presume, Senator Morehead, that the judge will do as he does in all cases and allow the amount of time that is necessary in order to hear the case.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: I would ask each one of you senators who are...thank you, Senator Beutler, very much. I would ask each one of you senators who represent Lancaster, Douglas or Sarpy County to check your court and see what happens. Senator Higgins has indicated to me that she could possibly have that answer. Senator Higgins, would you care to respond to the same questions?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Senator Morehead. The only thing I can respond to is that in Douglas County the only time they hear child support cases are Friday morning and Douglas County probably has more of them than any county in the state. The waiting period, what about it, ad infinitum.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Um hmmm. And it is my understanding that each case as it comes before the judge is allotted 15 minutes and that is the basic time the judge has scheduled on his agenda. So you check that out and I will try to verify that. But when we get down to whether judges are or are not overworked then this could be a point of agreement or disagreement. Now Senator Beutler has also indicated that the committee has had, I assume within the committee, some disagreement as to whether masters should be established or not. Masters, according to this bill, are attorneys who are then...take on a quasi judicial type of form and I would ask each one of you to go to your statutes and check out 24-519...

PRESIDENT: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: ...and find out what associate county judges are. Are they attorneys or are they not? They are not attorneys and what are their responsibilities? You check out what their responsibilities are as associate county judges. This will leave you more informed when you come back in here to make the decisions that you will have