

look at district number eight, in 1059, and you tell me that's compact, I think you can easily have some questions raised in your mind. Secondly, when you create large judicial districts, I think you'll have an effect on retention. Remember, these judges come up every few years and you're supposed to vote as to whether or not they keep their jobs. I happen to think that if the judges are in large districts and they lose contact with the people that they are serving, because there are many, many miles between them and the people, that that will have an effect on retention. I think it will be harder to get rid of judges. The other defect in 1059 is that it relies primarily on case load studies for its validity. Caseloads, by themselves, are one element you'd certainly want to consider in any proposal to redistrict. However, they simply do not tell the whole story. Cases are like anything else, some of them are...demand more time than others. And I think we've seen examples of that here in the Legislature where we've had simple bills that demanded very little time, complex bills that consume hours and days of debate. The same thing is true of cases that are filed in the district courts. So case loads, by themselves, do not indicate whether a case took two weeks, or whether it took five minutes, that information is not available to us in the kind of statistics that you see here. The other thing that case loads do not take into account is the fact that judges do more than just sit on benches, they also have administrative duties. They write their own...some of them write their own opinions, some of them type their own opinions, some of them answer their own phone, some judges do not because they have other staff available to do those things for them. That makes a difference when you're talking about what the real workload of a judge is. Some judges do their own research.

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Some judges have law clerks to do that research for them. Some judges go and sit on benches for other judges and decide cases, some judges do not. That affects their case load, or affects what they are actually doing. Senator Beutler cited the 16th district as being one in which you have relatively low case loads, and that's true. But we also happen to have at least one judge in the 16th district who has been consistently a hard working judge. In fact I think he's the only judge in the State of Nebraska that has actually kept track of his time, so we know what that judge does. And despite that judge's low case load, in 1990 he worked 275 days when he would