

March 7, 1975

or she is interested in having on the ground, by that I mean no longer driving. I am in favor of the bill without any amendment. I think it is suitable and proper and I hope you see it the same way.

PRESIDENT: Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, now I certainly am not going to defend judges in courts which do not do their job and which the law specifically says they shall do. However, Senator Lewis, I would like to share with you sometime when you have some time the abstracts on these matters which we had before we had the Court Reform Act passed. It would be a very interesting comparison, both as to numbers and as to the types of matters that are relative to this particular discussion. I would say this that if there are judges and there are courts that are not doing this, I think they ought to be illuminated in the light of day. I think there names should be placed in the paper so the people when they come up for retention know they are not doing their duty. That's what this system is all about. You..people say, well, you can't get rid of judges. Well, you most certainly can. You have a vote everytime they come up for retention. Let people know what judges are not doing. That's what we have been saying all along and that the system will work. Now I would like to have and, Senator Lewis, I would request that you present to me the names of the judges and the courts which are not carrying out their duties and that goes for everybody in this body and I shall, personally, take them to the Court Administrator and we will see if we can't do something about this sort of thing. We are as unhappy about it as anybody. However, I do not want all the courts and all the judges in this state who are carrying out traffic... handling traffic matters to be indicted by what one or two or three judges or court clerks are doing. It would be the same to indict the entire Legislature because some member does not attend sessions, does not attend our hearings or does not vote on bills. I think that that would be entirely unfair.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis. Frank Lewis. Oh, I mean Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: I would like to answer Senator Luedtke, if I might, because he knows very well that I have been critical of this system. I was critical of the bill when we had it and I am just making this point to point out to people some of the flaws in this system. I have made it a point to interview several highway patrolmen and ask them about...since this particular bill deals entirely with the point system and the traffic violations, I asked them what improvement had been made in the system over the old Justice of the Peace system. Well, I would be the first to agree that that had many flaws, the Justice of the Peace system, but first we raised the courts cost to offset this new procedure from \$5 to \$8, as I recall and this may not be exactly right, but the Justice of the Peace did furnish his own office. He furnished his own clerk, if he had one, and he took care of mailing these in. The patrolmen tell me, the ones that I have interviewed, that on the interstate system and on the state highway system that most of these, probably 60% of these fines are paid by waiver. The patrolman is doing all the work. The court costs were increased