

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on motion to adopt the Warner amendment.

PRESIDENT: Are there any further amendments?

CLERK: Yes. Senator DeCamp has one.

PRESIDENT: Is Senator DeCamp.... Here he comes.

CLERK: Read DeCamp amendment found on page 1579 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This amendment adds \$33,000 to the county court system. I won't take a lot of time on it. Additional case loads and studies they've done have indicated they need five additional employees if they're going to efficiently going to handle these things and keep the system going without starting to crunch up. I think Senator Luedtke and a number of other members of the Legislature are familiar with the problem. We don't think this addition of five extra employees is anything excessive. In fact, I suppose we could argue that we should have ten, but we're trying to be reasonable and we're trying to talk about a fairly moderate sum of money, \$33,000 out of a total amount of \$1½ million or thereabouts. So it's not any excessive increase. The amendment adds five, five additional clerical employees. The amendment will add \$33,000 to the budget for the county court system for the purpose of hiring five additional clerical employees. The county court system now has 43 judges. Do you really want to hear all of this, or do you just want to pass the amendment? Okay. The county court system now has 43 judges and 260 other full-time equivalent employees working in 93 counties. In 57 of the courts there are two or less employees. The 1976 Legislature provided funds for ten additional employees, but this funding was eliminated by the Governor's line-item veto. The budget request for 1977-78 did call for ten additional employees. Both the Governor's budget and LB 531 provided for only five. So this amendment would allow a total of ten, the additional five I spoke of. The new clerical employees I spoke of will be assigned to the courts with the highest volume of cases. So you people that have a heavy case load understand that you're getting the benefits from this. It isn't going to be Antelope County or my area, it's going to be those with the highest case loads, and you do have some problems, and the most rapid rate of increase. To make maximum use of the available personnel permanent part-time employees will be hired in some locations. If you have some interest in the county court case load it's increased dramatically over the past four years. In 1973 153,000 cases were filed. This increased to 189,000 in 1974 when the speed limits, remember 55 miles an hour, and of course with Jimmy Carter's new talk about catching all you people that go faster, you're really going to see some action. This was increased to 213,000 in 1975, and more than 227,000 in 1976. So keep all these things in mind. Filings thus far in 1977 are running way ahead of 1976. More than half the state costs for operation of the county court system is returned to the General Fund, I repeat, it's returned to the General Fund through fees and costs collected by the courts. In 1976 these fees totaled