

adoption of the amendments.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Mills. Do you wish to speak on the amendments?

SENATOR MILLS: I sure do, Mr. President.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the committee amendments and urge you to adopt them, urge you to adopt them. Senator Nichol has distributed to you the change in salary. Now the reason why I am asking you to do this is I am very concerned of the county judges of the State of Nebraska. I have a list that I should have sent around to you showing each one of you the amount of county judges in your legislative district and I am very concerned, I am very concerned about the amount of money that is being paid to county judges. Now I am not speaking about district judges, although I am in favor of that part of the bill. I am speaking of the county judges part which is in the amendment. These, currently, these judges currently are receiving \$25,440 and it has been shown to us the amount of turnover within that particular area. It is hard to find these people. In the last number of openings, there has only been one or two lawyers even ask to have this job. How can we, in the State of Nebraska, continue to have a bench which does the important work as the county judges do without those people and very qualified people submitting themselves for this job. I also, as I said, am in support of the entire bill and would urge you to adopt the amendment. Those persons that are serving in the county courts of the State of Nebraska are handling such important things as the estates, the probate and juvenile matters in some areas and I know that Senator Stoney had some concern about LB 169 as I have. In many areas of the state, those county judges handle all of those responsibilities. I would urge you to move this bill, adopt the amendment and move it forward.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will be very brief. I support LB 672 and I support it primarily with the intention in mind that we will have an interim study done as to the salaries of all judges based upon their duties and responsibility and case load of all judges and I think this is extremely important. I sometimes am reluctant to voice my support for this particular bill because of the amount of money that we are giving certain judges and what I consider to be a very relatively low amount of money given to another group of judges. I am optimistic that in this study that we will know firsthand just exactly what is the overall responsibility and caseload of all of our judges so that as time goes on in this legislative body we can better determine just exactly how much money should be given these judges when it comes time to discuss pay raises. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR SAVAGE: There are no more lights on. Senator Nichol, do you wish to close on the amendment?