

Senator Hefner and the members of the body about this bill and about the judicial system. First off, a lot of us have discussed and focused on the Supreme Court and the facts of the matter are that the seven members of the State Supreme Court constitute but a fraction of our judicial system. There are 122 judges that are affected by this piece of legislation, 122 judges across the State of Nebraska, and I think we have all had experiences, perhaps, where we have heard of some judges that perhaps haven't lived up to the standards we would hold for judges. But I would like to point out an individual that I think represents the best in our judicial system and probably better represents what many of our judges, I would say, most of our judges are all about, and that is Judge Nuernberger. The reason I mention him in particular and the reason I am so emphatic about making this point is I had dinner with him and Senator Scofield and Senator Smith the other night when we had a meeting regarding a child welfare issue, and a foundation was in town we were discussing the matters with. He sat across the table from me and we had a discussion about his 27 years on the bench in this state as a juvenile judge here in Lancaster County. We talked about it because there was a case in which he and I had a difference of opinion, and we talked about that case. We talked about what sort of a job he had. I guess we started off talking about how much work the Legislature is and how much time we put in the session. I reversed it and asked him what kind of hours he put in and what kind work he did on his job, and what he told me is this, that he gets into his office at seven in the morning each weekday, holds court from eight until he breaks for lunch, doesn't have time to go out for lunch. Some have the impression that judges like to spend a lot of noon hours going out to lunch. He brings a sack lunch because he doesn't have time to leave and because he is working on casework over the noon hour. Then he gets back on the bench and works that afternoon until five or so and the proceedings end, or something like that, and then he works into the evening and weekends because he doesn't have time during the day to look at materials and to prepare his opinions and to deal with the caseload that he has got presented to him. This man has put in this kind of time day in and day out for those 27 years, and I asked him, well, don't you get some vacation time? Don't you get some time away from that daily grind? And he indicated that sometimes he lucky and he gets two weeks of vacation. This individual, and you could go on to some of the other obstacles he has overcome in putting in this kind of time. This man would take three people to replace and I think there are other judges just as hardworking and just as outstanding as he is. I am not