

consideration. The time to take it into consideration is at the beginning, right now, and make them present a compelling case, which they have not. There has not been to my mind a demonstrated need to have nine judges on this court. All of that is by way of coming back to the amendment that I am offering. How much more work is it going to be for the Supreme Court to require them to hear Class IB felony cases, which carry a possible sentence of ten years to life imprisonment? That is not too much to ask the Supreme Court to do. When the backlog is cut down, there is no way for it to be built up again because the majority of cases are going to be screened out by the appellate court. Does that make sense in a state like Nebraska? This state does not have a large population as New York and some of these eastern, southeastern, and other states that are shown on the chart you were given. This is not a state where there is a lot of manufacturing, where there is a lot of shipping, where there is a lot of oil drilling and production of natural gas and the kind of complex, difficult, legal matters that might require a tremendous amount of time for a court to work its way through. You don't have esoteric, difficult, complex cases routinely being presented to the courts of this state. It is like the kind of situation you are confronted with...make a comparison. If you are going to a class to learn philosophy, you have to go with a different mind-set than if you go to the morning newspaper. No matter what newspaper you read, a certain level of intelligence and ability is sufficient to allow you to master anything in any newspaper that you read. The level of knowledge is not that great. But if you are going into a new area of study and information, that area is going to be beyond you. You are going to have to stretch your mind and your ability to master what is being presented. You are not going to understand it as soon as you read it. Anything you read in the newspaper, as soon as you read it, you understand it. The newspaper brings you more information. A course in philosophy brings you more knowledge. It encourages you to develop the ability to think critically and in a discriminating fashion. It teaches you to analyze, which is to take things apart; then, understand them, and synthesize, which is to put them back together and have a more complete understanding. With the court cases that arise in Nebraska, no tremendous amount of specialized knowledge is required. It is something like the newspaper syndrome where most judges, at least those on the Supreme Court, are up to dealing with those kind of cases. If they are not, then creation of an appellate court system is not going to rectify that problem because you are saying that the judges at a lower