

March 21, 1979

LB 237

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow colleagues, the only thing these amendments do is in the case of the county judge, it reduces the active practice from five years to three years and it reduces the age limit from thirty years to twenty five years. Out in the western part of the state we have a problem getting county attorneys and I am afraid if you leave this five years practice and thirty years age in there you are going to give us another problem of getting county judges. I have raised this issue with the people who are pushing these requirements and the answer has been, we will go outside of the district and get you a judge. If there isn't one in your district we will go to North Platte and get you one, or we will go to Scottsbluff and get you one. Well, fellow Senators, we do not want a county judge from North Platte or Scottsbluff. We want one from our own district so I would ask your support to these two amendments that reduces the active practice for a county judge from five years to three years. It reduces the age limit from thirty years to twenty five years. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, do you wish to be recognized on the Haberman motion?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes, I do, Mr. Speaker. A question of Senator Haberman if he will yield.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I guess I will have to.

SENATOR KOCH: Senator Haberman, what is going to happen one of these days in those counties where you are if you don't have a professional attorney even with three years and that may happen in some counties because we've got one with six hundred people now in it and only one attorney. Why not allow the age limit to be like it is and you find you are in trouble then go to a regional consortium of a judge or those people needed to carry out that line of endeavor?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Koch, if and when we get to that position possibly I could support what you are saying but I feel also that we are putting restrictions on a profession and there aren't any other professions that I know that have these restrictions. We could do the same thing to teachers, to morticians, anybody else, so I feel this really won't harm any other district except the people in western Nebraska but if we do get to the point that what you are talking about I will probably go along with you.

SENATOR KOCH: We are getting close to that now in several counties, Senator Haberman. That is not unique and all we