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PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland. Senator Hoagland, speaking to the Vickers amendment, Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President, I would like to rise in opposition to the amendment that has been put up by my good friend and colleague, Senator Vickers, which would take out the possibility of ever issuing any kind of private reprimand against a judge after some sort of mistake in conduct or in the flow of his work has been found. Now let me give you this example. Let's say we have a judge in the trial court who is relatively new and who is not able to move his case load along as fast as he ought to be able to. He is not experienced and he is getting bogged down and getting behind in his work and he is only being able to move cases along half as fast as his other colleagues on the bench. So the commission on judicial tenure which is set up pursuant to the Constitution, wants to send him a letter urging him to move his cases along faster so we can get things under way. Now this amendment is designed so that issues like that can come before the commission on judicial tenure and it is important for the commission to be able to consider those kinds of issues, but if we have the kind of mistake or the kind of difficulty where a judge can't move his case load along and a reprimand is required or some sort of letter is necessary, do we want to make that public? Now there are a lot of other issues that I could give you which are similar where relatively minor difficulties are taking place, letters need to be sent out to the courts, but as soon as you make it a requirement under the Constitution that that be made public, what is going to happen? Well the net result is going to be that those letters aren't going to be sent out at all because the commission is not going to want to embarrass the judges over very minor relatively insignificant matters. So this particular amendment would throw a monkey wrench into the operation of this provision and I would strongly urge you to oppose it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I would oppose the Vickers amendment for the same reasons as Senator Hoagland has just outlined. The private reprimand, I believe, is needed. The private reprimand is for the most minor instances and as Senator Hoagland just pointed out, it could be something as minor as a new judge not being able to move his work load as fast as judges who have been on the bench for a number of years. There are numerous examples like that but the private reprimand