

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Chambers, if a judge is being considered for a harsh type of discipline that is going to be by a means of a formal open hearing under this constitutional amendment and that kind of information is going to be public. The positions of the lay people is going to be made public pursuant to that formal open hearing.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, Senator Hoagland, does the open hearing necessarily mean that the judge will be found "guilty" and disciplined, or could he or she be exonerated?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Of course he or she could be exonerated but it is all going to be out there on the table.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If it is out in the open would there be any disclosure as to who voted for a public hearing?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: There might be.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think there might be lawyers reluctant to make such a vote if they thought a judge would find out how they voted?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well certainly. It is a problem for anyone who is sitting in judgment of anybody else. They are concerned about that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And do you think that fear that these lawyers have might assert itself and that might prevent them from casting such a vote?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Certainly. That could easily happen. It happens to everybody in any kind of public decision people have to make. They are subject to those kinds of pressures.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then this doesn't insure, even if it passes that what you are saying the bill can do will be done?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Chambers, it is a major fundamental step forward to make judges more accountable and make the system work better and to represent it as anything other than that is not correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did you read in this morning's paper where an Omaha police officer was fired for theft?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: No.