

March 5, 1980

LB 618

the amendments which the Judiciary Committee adopted. The fiscal impact of the bill is now \$196,000. The bill is supported by the Bar Association and it is supported by the District Judges Association. I believe that the bill warrants your support. If you will look at the work load in these two particular districts, if you look at the character of the districts, I think you would realize and come to realize that there is a need for additional district judges in those two areas. Senator Kelly will address the county judge in Hall County. I would ask for your support for the bill. If you have any questions, I will be happy to try and respond to them.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like to support the kill motion. I have had passed out to you and hopefully it has been passed out to everybody at this time a sheet that is entitled at the top "Judicial Statistics" and this came to me from a district court judge. And what this sheet purports to show is the workload in the different judicial districts in the state, and if you look over in the left-hand column, you will see the district numbers and you should circle the number 16, District 16 which is right at the top and then one, two, three, four, fifth from the bottom is District #21. Those are the two districts requesting an additional judge. Now if you look across the top of that page you will see that it tries to come to a total, a point total, for each judge and that point total is supposed to reflect the workload for that judge and you will see that the statistics take into account the number of cases filed, the number of counties that the judge has to go around to, the mileage the judge racks up, the nights away from home, the number of jury cases which take an extra long time and then, of course, it factors into that the number of judges in the district. Okay, so when you look at District 16, that is a district with one judge and it has the highest workload in the state accumulating 781 points. Now if you look just below that is District 3 and District 3 is Lancaster County. They have, the judges in Lancaster County, according to this calculation, have the second highest workload and District 4 is Douglas County and they have the third highest workload. District 14 is fourth and then we get down to District 21, which is actually fifth in terms of the workload. Now logically I suppose if you were going to put an extra judge on you would put it on in the districts where the workload, the two districts where the workload is heaviest,