

The appeal denying application for food stamps was filed here. Senator Hoagland will be knowledgeable about Lubeck versus Nebraska Accountability and Disclosure Commission appeal under the Sunshine Act. Senator Carsten is certainly aware that the Nebraska City Public Schools versus Thone action brought questioning the validity of the lid as affecting the Nebraska City schools was filed here, and Senator Goodrich should be knowledgeable about the State versus the Nebraska Mortgage Finance Fund appeal to the Supreme Court. These cases are but a small sampling of the types of cases that are unique to Lancaster County District Court that other district judges do not have to consider. These types of cases can often tie up the judge for days with complicated hearings on motions and evidence, not to mention the time it takes for the court to read the briefs, do independent research and write what often is a lengthy opinion. The District Judges Association has assigned a point system determine the caseload of the judges that comprise the 21 judicial districts of the state. In 1979, the judges in Lancaster County had the heaviest docket except for the Sixteenth Judicial District and the Twenty-first. Both of these districts were one judge districts and each received an additional judge in the last session of the Legislature. Based on 1979 statistics even when the sixth judge is added, it will only reduce the number of points per judge from 733 to 611 which is still above the average of 568 per judge. Statistics were obtained from the Clerk of the District Court of Lancaster County and graphically show the increase in filings for civil, criminal, and execution dockets from 1962 to the present. The increase is 87%. In 1972 when the fifth judge was added, civil filings jumped from 1837 to 3441. That increase of 87.3% goes hand in glove with the increase in population and with the increase in the number of lawyers in the county. An important change that cannot be clearly shown by statistics and might be covered up has to do with the workload placed on courts by society's increasing concern about the quality of our judicial system. Both the Legislature and appellate courts have become more concerned with extending and protecting the individual rights of litigants, especially those charged with criminal offenses. Examples of such changes...

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR MARSH: ...in our law are the presentence reports required in all felony cases and postconvictions review available in criminal cases. The Third Judicial District is charged with additional responsibility that the other twenty judicial districts in the state do not have. The population has risen. The five judges of the Lancaster