

March 25, 1981

LB 111

your attention to LB 475. That bill passed and I'm sure that you all remember yesterday morning, it passed Final Reading and will serve to handle the problem. LB 475 will implement the changes made in the commission on judicial qualifications by constitutional amendment number two adopted by the voters last November. Under the new sections if a complaint is filed against a judge, the commission will be empowered to discipline the judge with a number of sanctions. No longer will the commission be naturally hesitant to act because the only disciplinary measure available is removal from office. Of course the electorate as always can vote against retention when a judge's term expires. Passage of LB 111 would indicate to the judiciary and to those interested in becoming part of the judiciary that we consider the position of judge to be one of great importance and we wish to assure that their salaries will be set in a proper and dignified manner. No governmental body better understands the problems involved in setting adequate salaries as the legislature. As we continue to ask the people to aid us in being treated with fairness and dignity we should demonstrate that we are worthy of such respect. We can do so by exercising our constitutional prerogatives and treating the judiciary with fairness and dignity. The adoption of 111 will simplify the work of the legislature in setting judicial salaries and will strengthen the entire judicial system in Nebraska. I urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I support this bill. I would like to just mention a couple of items. About three or four years ago Senator Stoney headed a committee that looked into the judges' salary and we hired a firm by the name of Hey, I believe it was, from Chicago and they looked into the situation and they proposed a situation somewhat similar to this. I don't recall that their percentages were exactly the same as this, perhaps a little closer together than this formula. You will notice in your bill that Judge...that Supreme Court Justice Krivosha discussed this with us somewhat. He has asked that we present this bill to you not as an auction whereby we jostle and juggle and attempt to change the percentages of various courts but to take it as a package. If you believe in it vote for it. If you don't vote against it rather than jockeying around with an auction to change these positions. I congratulate Senator Chronister in explaining the situation the way it is, but I urge you to either accept the bill or reject it but don't attempt to jockey the figures around or the percentages. Thank you.