

March 25, 1981

LB 111

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Chronister stated that the purpose of this bill was not to increase salaries and Senator Haberman indicated that it did. I assume that if you have this handout that Senator Chronister passed around he indicates that actually the salary for county court judges in these smaller county judge districts does increase over 10%, or from the present 74% of the supreme court salaries to 85% under the provisions of the bill. So what my amendment does is to keep that percentage at 75%, which is roughly equivalent to the present percentage in those small county judge districts. In other words the only change would be the 75% instead of 85% in the county court districts which are smaller which would be roughly equivalent to the salaries that they are getting now, just a slight increase. This would be in keeping with Senator Chronister's statement in his opening that the purpose of the bill was not to increase salaries and this would maintain them at the present relationship.

SENATOR CLARK: I have a list of four people. I don't know whether you want to talk on the amendment or not? Senator Cullan, do you want to talk on the amendment?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would. I guess I would borrow a phrase often used by my very articulate and verbose friend from Imperial, Senator Haberman. The phrase that he chooses to use frequently is shame on you, shame on you, so this time I will apply it instead of to Senator Chronister to Senator Lamb. Shame on you Senator Lamb. But I guess now that I have your attention I would like to seriously oppose the Lamb amendment. One of the things that I like about this bill is that we do away with that distinction that has existed for many years between county courts in the metropolitan areas and county courts in the rural areas. It simply makes no sense to have a ten percent, eleven percent here differential in pay between county court in a rural area and a county court in an urban area, particularly in light of the fact that we are having difficulty in retaining individuals in the county courts in those rural areas. Now because many law school graduates and attorneys like to live in the urban areas there are greater numbers of them per capita and it is much easier to find someone to take some of these relatively low paying jobs. In fact, it is much easier for an attorney to make a better living in some of the more rural areas of the state than it is in some of the urban areas. I think perhaps if we are