

talking about attracting people and retaining them, the differential should be the other way. There is no logical reason, none that I can see, no logical reason for maintaining this pay differential even though we may be increasing the salaries of these county judges in rural areas. I think we ought to stick with Senator Chronister's amendments, or Senator Chronister's bill as written. I urge you to reject the Lamb amendment. I think that it punishes those attorneys in the rural areas who we have encouraged, have accepted pay cuts in fact in most cases to take this job on the bench. If Senator Lamb could articulate some logical reason to make this distinction between the county judges in the urban areas and rural areas perhaps I could support him. From my perspective I think the differential is totally unjustified and I would urge you to oppose Senator Lamb's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chronister, did you want to talk on the amendment?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Yes, Mr. President and members, I oppose the amendment offered by Senator Lamb because the intent of this bill is to put county judges on an equal basis. It will also serve to attract competent good attorneys to these areas that may be deficient in that area right at the present time. If we want to continue to attract the better qualified attorneys, I suggest that we keep this on an even keel with all county court justices receiving the same salary. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Lamb I wanted to point out something that perhaps I should have pointed out earlier. That is not every county has a county judge. As I recall, and don't hold me exactly to this figure, but I think that there are about half as many county judges as there are counties with the exception of the seven or so counties that have a judge or more than one judge of their own. So what Supreme Court Chief Justice Krivosha has been attempting to do and has been doing is that when there is a county judge that is not busy, he takes them and takes them someplace else, even brings them down to Lincoln I understand to do work with the supreme court. So I feel that knowing this that they are not sitting around not doing anything there is something being done to keep these judges busy where there is not enough to do in their own county. So I would be opposed to your amendment Howard for that reason.