

Who else can have a hammer in his hand, or her hand, and pound on the table...I'm not talking about the Speaker, because he can't find you in contempt and put you in jail if you keep talking after he hits the wood with the hammer. Who else is given that kind of awesome power other than the judges? There is a type of arrogance that goes with uncontrolled power. And who can say that there is any position in the society which gives any group of people such control over the lives and destinies of other human beings? The judges are as close to idols as any group that exists in this society. Nebraska has no way to gain any type of accountability from these judges other than through the work that the Legislature will do in manifesting oversight. We should not allow this bill to pass. It was put together by certain groups of the judges for the benefit of the judges. Are they, just because they wear a robe and have a wooden hammer and can tell you to shut up if they want to, entitled to this kind of bill? I don't think that they are. And it would be a gross mistake to give them this bill. There was an editorial in the Friday edition of the Lincoln Journal and I think it covers a lot of the points that Senators should be interested in before voting on this bill. There is a large headline that says, "Judicial Power Grows". Then above that in smaller print, "Checks and balances being altered". I will tell you why the Legislature does not get much consideration or command much respect. The prerogatives and the duties that are imposed on us by the Constitution we fritter away bit by bit. The executive branch can kick the Legislature around. The judiciary branch can finesse the Legislature. Then we wonder why people have such contempt for this body, why they will not vote salaries, why they say that the Legislature the less time it is in session the better off everybody will be. It is because we are not discharging the responsibilities that have been imposed on us. If you take away this one opportunity that we have to bring judges before us to explain what they are doing, what other occasion is there when the judges have to talk to us? There is none. There are some Senators who will vote against doing away with Final Reading and I would be one of those Senators because we think there comes a point where we need to take a last look at legislation before we give that fateful vote. If we pass LB 111, that is worse than doing away with Final Reading because, at least, under that Final Reading bill you can ask that the bill be read. Under this, you cannot require the judges to talk to the Legislature. The last string has been cut, and like a helium filled balloon they're off...remember the song that says, "Up, up and away", that will be the judges and that will be their