

March 30, 1981

LB 111

somewhat amused, to be truthful with you, by the handout by Charles Noren who is the registered lobbyist for the Nebraska Workmens Compensation Court. As you can see from the handout what the Workmens Compensation judges are concerned about is their relative position on the pecking order. They think that they should be considered the equal of District Court judges and certainly superior in terms of salary to Municipal Court and County Court judges. Under this bill, they are not going to, they are going to be treated like County Court and Municipal Court judges. Now in my opinion this is a tempest in a tea cup. It is not the kind of thing we really ought to be involved with. On the other hand some of the important things that come from this letter are case load statistics.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: We will not get those statistics on a regular basis in a meaningful way unless we continue to pass on salaries court by court by court. It is for that reason, reasons of accountability that I think our existing structure is a better structure than that called for by LB 111 and I would urge you to vote to kill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would like to speak just a minute or two on my own behalf not as chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I voted to put this bill out for one reason mostly. That was to put the concept before you to see whether you as members of the Legislature were willing to take the responsibility as having a group movement here to speak and support this concept. All judges are tied together in this concept and it has been very well explained by Senator Chambers and partially by Senator Vard Johnson also. Without repeating there are some pit falls, there are also some good things about this. The thing that the Judiciary Committee has to do almost every year is to hassle with these various salaries as to what they should or shouldn't be. Frankly, how do we as a group of laymen, most of us at least, know what judges salaries should be. We don't. We listen to lobbyists we listen to judges, we listen to attorneys and we have some good judges and some bad judges in each group. For example, I think of Judge Moran out in Alliance, Nebraska who in my opinion and in the opinion of several others is an outstanding district judge. Still all district judges across the state get the same salary. Yes, we look at the ballot once in awhile to individually judge them but they still all get the same salary and if we