

April 7, 1981

LB 111

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I am asking you the question, is that true?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well I don't...I am not familiar enough with the facts to be able to give you a specific answer on that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Have you voted in favor of those bills to add a judge last year and to add another one in Lancaster County this year?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, I have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it because there is an imbalance in the workload?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, I think in those cases, Senator Chambers, good cases were made out for the needs of those judges in those particular instances.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, do all judges have the same ability? And the answer to that is obvious.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, you know, right now we set salaries for classes of judges, not individual judges anyway.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's not what I am asking you. Do they all have the same ability?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Of course not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, when we talk about having qualified people, do you know roughly how many judges altogether there are in the state?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: There are about 120 in the state.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think there are that many qualified lawyers in the entire State of Nebraska let alone those who specialize and call themselves judges? Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I have to put something into the record and I hope the Chief Justice is listening. Some of you have come to me and I don't know if you will say it on the floor this morning, who see this as a grab for power by the Chief Justice, that this move is being viewed as a counterproductive move and that it may hurt what the judiciary attempts to do through the Chief Justice. I want that into the record and I will discuss it in more detail with him or anybody else wherever it is necessary. But when we talk about the independence of these various