

April 7, 1981

LB 111

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have a minute and a half, Senator.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: That is not proper. Thank you, Senator Marvel. That is not proper. It is not our function. We should respect their independence just as we want them to respect our independence. And with the Speaker's permission, I will yield the rest of my time to Senator Chronister, the sponsor of this measure.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chronister, you have a minute.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, last week and today probably the most frequently repeated argument against 111 is that it would reduce the accountability of the judiciary to the Legislature. That argument is mistaken and misdirected. The Legislature possesses innumerable means for reviewing the performances of courts and judges who serve in them. We write the laws which they apply, including the laws which structure the courts. Through the appropriations process we wield the power of the purse strings over the judiciary. Whenever any such measure is enacted we are reviewing the performance of the courts. The number of opportunities to review the courts and hold the judges accountable is limited only by the bounds of our imagination. LB 111 is directed at rooting out one of the most negative aspects in the relationship between the judiciary and the Legislature.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, I urge your reconsideration of LB 111.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the re.... I'm sorry, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would ask for a point of personal privilege and I will state it to the Chair.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hoagland, I think when unfair advantage is taken in debate, there should be a chance to clarify the record and that is what my point is. He brought up an earlier bill and said Senator Reutzel and I were making a political football out of it as though I were on the side opposing judges' salary increases. I have supported their increases and I think it is unfair for Senator Hoagland to imply, or Senator DeCamp to imply,