

However, one of the things that has happened in this Legislature over the last several years has been the request of various senators and local Bar Associations for the addition of another judge to that particular judicial district from which they come. Thus, as I recall, last year we provided the Chadron area with another district judge and the Columbus area with another district judge and I believe we provided the Grand Island, Nebraska, area with another county judge and each time we have made that move and we have acted, we have always felt as if we were acting on ad hoc basis as opposed to acting on a more uniform, a more standardized basis that treats the entire state. Now Senator Chris Beutler brought to us this year a legislative bill that would call for the redistricting of the state into new judicial districts and those judicial districts essentially would take into consideration the kinds of case loads and the kinds of practices that are now confronting the bench throughout the state. And obviously where another district judge was necessary, then I assume that in due course this Legislature would allow such additional judge and appropriate the funds to support the office. Or if, instead, appropriate changes are required to judicial district boundary lines, then this Legislature would go ahead and make those changes. Now in the midst of Senator Beutler's bill and our own efforts on this issue has come LB 89 and LB 89 would give Lancaster County another judge. In the meantime, last week this Legislature added \$25,000 to an appropriation bill. The purpose of the \$25,000 was to facilitate a comprehensive study by the Legislature of district court and county court districting needs so we could more easily determine where we should put our new judges or where we should not put our new judges, so we could more easily determine where the real case load was and where the real work load was and we could more carefully allocate our resources. In addition I have had a conversation with our Chief Justice, Norman Krivosha, and he has told me that he is now in the process of undertaking a study of the needs for the location and the addition of judges and he hopes that that study will likewise be completed between now and the first of next year. So I am suggesting that we take this bill which would allow Lancaster County a sixth district court judge and not act on it this session but instead, wait until next session. We will all be the same folk. The arguments will all be the same and we at that time will have had the benefit of our \$25,000 study and what the Supreme Court itself is engaged in to ascertain whether the amount of money we are going to place into a sixth judge in Lancaster County is truly wanted, to ascertain whether that money might be better spent with another judge in some other area, to ascertain whether we should begin to shift case loads. For example, we can change the law to allow administrative appeals