

If you noticed and read Judge Fahrnbruch's letter carefully on page 2, the second paragraph, I quote, "I am convinced that a large number of bench warrants pending has been because of the inability of the court, due to case load and number of motions filed to quickly process the cases. It would be too bad in Lancaster County to simply have people wait out their bench warrants thinking that the courts were so busy with important, serious problems that the bench warrants would not, in fact, be processed. Lancaster County has been plagued with a number of homicide cases. Since January 1, 1981, the court has tried two first degree murder cases, one of which lasted four and a half weeks and the second for two and a half weeks." The judge says, "I shall impanel a jury on May 11 on another first degree murder case which is expected to last between two and three weeks." Additional judges are coming in to help but this is not solving the problem. It is important that you understand they will not divide Lancaster County into a smaller unit. The additional judge is needed here right now and it still, when that additional person is added, the point system is far above the state average. Why jeopardize, why take a chance on losing even one criminal case because it cannot be filed in time? There is a separate and a serious nature only responsible to the third judicial district because of the previous laws we have passed. As Senator Vard Johnson mentioned that can be changed but it cannot be changed this legislative year with twelve days remaining in this session. That may be something that should be done another session. It is not a feasible response to the proposal now. I urge your rejection of this proposed amendment. I feel certain if Senator Lamb had read thoroughly Judge Fahrnbruch's letter he would not have offered his original motion. With that I urge your rejection.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan. Senator Nichol. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting aye.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Johnson, do you wish to close?

SENATOR JOHNSON: (Mike not turned on.) ...it is not one to kill the bill. It is one to lay it over until next year. At