

the beginning of next year if the study has come in showing that Lancaster County is deserving of the sixth judge, then at the very beginning of session we can go ahead and approve the bill. We could even, I suppose, alter our rules to approve the A bill at the same time. That would be necessary obviously. Otherwise it would be held over until the very end of next legislative session. But let me make what I think are really very telling points on this. Our Constitution was amended several years ago to provide as follows: "In accordance with rules established by the Supreme Court and not in conflict with other provisions of this Constitution and laws governing such matters, general administrative authority over all courts in this state shall be vested in the Supreme Court and shall be exercised by the Chief Justice. Now you might open your bill book to LB 89 and ask yourself in looking at the list of persons who supported LB 89, whether the Chief Justice spoke in favor of the bill. The Supreme Court did not take a position on this bill. The Chief Justice did not come in and say that it was his opinion or the court's opinion as a general administrative court that an additional judge was now necessary in Lancaster County. There was a silence from the court on that point but I do know from conversations I have had with the Chief Justice and with the court, that the court at this time is thoroughly undertaking a study of our judicial needs throughout the entire state and that will include Lancaster County. And I know that this body as Senator Lamb has pointed out is going to undertake a comparable study, probably the studies will work in tandem and we will know by the end of this calendar year precisely what our judicial needs are and how they will look for the next several years and then you and I can make an informed decision, an informed decision about the appropriate way to spend tax dollars. Now you should be mindful of the fact that when we approve a sixth judge for Lancaster County we do not just approve a judge. We approve a court reporter and we approve the trappings. So it will all be in place now. Is it irresponsible for me to ask and for this body to say, let us defer this decision for...really about eight months and at the end of eight months we can look at all the facts and the figures. We can look at the point chart. You know the point chart itself is very interesting. Without any question there are many judges who have fewer points than the five hundred and thirty-eight, or whatever the number is, normative allowance and it could well be that they have fewer points simply because their case loads have not been very active and not been very heavy and redistricting is necessary for the other judges and when you get through an appropriate calculation we will discover that the Lancaster County judges are not nearly as overworked as they might think themselves to be.