

March 29, 1982

LB 603

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Yes.

SENATOR WIITALA: I would like to address a question to you since Senator Hoagland was not in the Chamber at that time and really didn't have an opportunity maybe to respond to some of your remarks. You said that this proposal would benefit Senator Hoagland and all of his friends. Would you mind explaining that to the body, please?

SENATOR VON MINDEN: Yes, I would. I am a farmer and anybody that pertains to agriculture is a friend of mine, and he is an attorney and the attorneys work with the judges and naturally they would be a friend. And perhaps Senator Hoagland wants to be a judge in a few years, I can just understand why he would be for the bill. That is all I said, Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Senator VonMinden. I would wish that in the future you wouldn't impute certain sets of circumstances without having that person having an opportunity to address them. First of all, I would suspect that Senator Hoagland, members and colleagues, represents a profession no different than a great deal of us in this body represent professions, that he is very close to lawyers who have to make a decision whether they would like to serve in a public capacity in the judicial branch and knows full well the sacrifice that must take place in order to make that decision. Any lawyer worth his salt that wishes to become a judge knows that he is probably giving up a very lucrative practice but that is what being worth your salt means. Not only that but perhaps giving up money set aside for his retirement years. I think this body understands that we can't equate today's economic circumstances with a forty thousand, fifty thousand, sixty thousand dollar judgeship because what we are trying to do and attempting to do is to attract the most qualified candidates to the office possible. Colleagues, that can't be done unless there is a commensurate salary that offsets the losses of giving up private practice. Because of economic conditions judges full well know today that they may have to give up their public stewardship because they can't lay enough money aside to take care of the expenses of their family and further inevitable future retirement. I think when Senator Hoagland and the rest of the Senators in this body that represent a legal background speak to this issue, they are speaking from experience. They are not speaking because they have friendships. They are not speaking because they wish to have a judgeship in the future and they want those dollars. We should easily