February 3, 1989 LB 116

the same token, if it has a deterrent effect, it could reduce the number of cases that are filed.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if the docket becomes clogged and it begins to cost money, is Omaha going to say that the Legislature put them in a position where it costs them money and maybe the state should help by placing this mandatory approach on them because the jury trial would be a matter of right and will they begin to say that because they have such a backlog of cases they want another judge? If they come to the Legislature with that, would you support them in that request or tell them no?

SENATOR LINDSAY: There are a number of things that can backlog a court. As you know, it's, right now, the DWI cases are causing a tremendous backlog because of the jury demands there. Because people request their right to a jury or because people have a right to a jury, and it might end up having a little more work for the court, I don't think that is a reason whether or not to pass a law. I think we have to determine what state policy is. As far as would I support a request for an additional judge, I don't know.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I will wager that these questions were not presented to the Judiciary Committee and I will wager that had I not raised them on the floor here they would not be a matter of record and perhaps those who offered the bill had not considered them. But I were a defense lawyer I would insist on a jury trial every if time. And then they said, maybe we can bargain. What will you agree to in order not to ask for a jury trial? I'd say a \$100 fine at most. They say, you got it, and the law is a mockery, The Legislature gives the appearance that it has it's hollow. done something, but because of the infirmities of the system itself simply being overburdened already with serious matters, is going to have to compromise on this law that the Legislature passed because Omaha asked for it without considering the ramifications. And let's say you reach a point, forget about the jury trial aspect of it and you start putting a lot of these people in jail and there have to be a lot of them to justify you in enacting this law. They have to have persuaded you that there is such a large number of people engaged in prostitution that the state should deal with it and not let the city handle it by ordinance. So where are these people going to go? To the Douglas County Correction Center. They are already talking about having too many people in certain of those mods. So when