

of Nebraska, one in Sarpy County, one in Lancaster County, and in Douglas County. The juvenile court in Lancaster County currently has one juvenile court judge and will soon receive a second juvenile court judge at the end of this year. The juvenile court in Sarpy County has one judge and the juvenile court in Douglas County currently has two full-time judges with one additional part-time judge, retired judge, District Court Judge Caniglia. Judge Caniglia has been working for the court for a number of years and is working on a four-day a week schedule so he is basically a three-quarter judge at this time and is paid for those services by the State of Nebraska. So, in essence, what we are requesting in this amendment is actually just probably about is a quarter to a half additional judge from the current status. Again, briefly, going through some of the history of the juvenile court system, I have handed out to each member three charts and graphs which indicate the increase in caseload and all of us who want to add judges or add pay or whatever always have plenty of statistics to support it, but I think you can see by looking at the graphs on the handout that the increase in litigation in the juvenile court system in Douglas County has increased in astronomical proportions from the number of hearings in 1982, 2,139, to anticipated number of hearings in 1989 of 8,482 hearings. The statistics are one thing. The other part of the juvenile court system which is...doesn't come out necessarily in the statistics is the substance of each case, and I know lawyers, my colleagues in the body may attest to this, that maybe we shouldn't be the ones to talk about our own profession but I know I listen to members in the insurance business and members in the farming and ranching business when I don't know about what is going on. So, hopefully, even though I am a lawyer and have some experience in this, you will still give me some credibility, but each case in the juvenile court is a very difficult case. Can I get a gavel.

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you. Each case is a difficult case or it wouldn't be before the court. In Douglas County, and this is different from Lancaster County, each case is first brought into an intake officer, and that intake officer is not a juvenile court officer but is, in fact, an officer of the Douglas County Attorney's Office, and so there...the cases that come to the juvenile court are the most difficult cases, and, in my 15 years in the practice of law, I have handled several cases, many through to the Supreme Court, and many cases which have been