

since the Constitution was written in 1875. Now those of you who know history know 1875 was the time when the Grange, it was the birth of the Grange. A very populous mentality was sweeping the country and obviously had an influential impact on the drafting of our State Constitution, particularly Section 23 and 24 of the State Bill of Rights. You know, and that was, at the time, was a very unusual thing to do according to my reading of history and in many ways still is having a direct appeal to the Supreme Court. Well, from that point on, as early as the early 1900s, you know, there was...in the early 1900s there was a Commission on the Supreme Court to how...the Commission was created to try and develop a method to deal with the overload that had been there for decades since 1875. That's what they...the Commission looked at that, they studied it a long time, eventually they threw it out and expanded the court. And since that time there are a number of times when we've tried to deal with the issue, tried to deal with Section 23 and 24, and we've always come back to Senator Lindsay's method of addressing the problem. And what do we have once again, we still have the same problem of tremendous case overload in the ultimate court in the State of Nebraska. Well, you know, I guess in my opinion, after 115 years we should learn from our mistakes. I think LR 8 in its original form as brought to us by the Judiciary Committee finally goes in and addresses a change in Section 23 and 24 of the Bill of Rights. It will finally get us around a problem we've had for the last 115 years and, obviously, you shouldn't be amending the Constitution of the State of Nebraska casually. Senator Chambers and other people in the body have expressed their concern over changing a very basic thing in our Constitution, but the fact of the matter is, we've had problems with it since its inception, 1875. I think it's time once...I'm assuming that the voters of the state have had opportunities in the past to deal with this, and for various reasons if, Senator Lindsay, someone made the suggestion it would be easier for the people to understand a very simple expansion of the court, and maybe that's why they've settled on that in the past, but it hasn't solved the problem. So for those reasons, I urge the body to vote down Senator Lindsay's amendment, look carefully at what all of us think is right to do, and if we find it in ourselves thinking that LR 8 goes in and makes a very basic change in our Constitution, no doubt about that, I think it's a basic change that will finally bring some rhyme or reason and some ability for our court system to handle caseloads in an efficient manner which all citizens of the State of Nebraska deserve. And it's a resolution the people