

than any other entity of government.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I understand we have an amendment to the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Haberman would move to amend Senator Baack's amendment. (See FA365 on page 844 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, and members of the body, it has been stated on the floor that it is tough, it is rough, it is hard to get people to seek judgeships. If you will please look at the handout that is on your desk, there was one judgeship open in Lancaster County, and 15 attorneys applied for that one judgeship. That shows that there is the interest. Now this was before this salary increase. Now over the past four years, there has been 27 positions open for judges; 279 attorneys applied for those 27 positions, 279 people applied for 27 positions. That was before, that was before this increase. Almost unbelievable, isn't it, that 279 people would go after 27 positions if the salary was too low. So we are completely ignoring that. We are ignoring that. We are saying the salary is too low, we can't get people to apply for judgeships. Now it has also been said to get quality judges, we need this increase. Well, are they inferring that the judges we have now are not quality judges? Is that what they are telling us? I don't think that is true. I don't think that the salary increase...what is quality? I would like to have some of these people who made that statement get up and tell me what is a quality judge compared to a nonquality judge? Now if you will look at the sheet, on the second sheet, you will see, for example, that the 13 people, for example, in '85 wanted a county judgeship in Omaha, but somebody decided that only four of them were quality. So I think maybe we ought to discuss that a little bit. Now what my amendment does, it takes out the 13 percent increase thereby allowing the judges only \$22,500 increase instead of a \$25,000 increase in a three year period. They still receive a \$22,500 increase in the three-year period. I also found out one other thing that I didn't know until yesterday. If this bill passes, if this legislation passes with that 20 or 13 1/2 percent increase, for the first time in history, it is going to cost the General Fund in the State of Nebraska \$500,000, or a million dollars in two years to fund the