

added, and that was in 1972. It's been 18 years since there has been any more, any more judges added. Since that time the caseload has increased dramatically, and we've passed out those figures to you as the bill progressed. And I think the figures on that are very convincing. More importantly, and that is what the figures that are going to be coming around to you now, we have figures on case aging. And the aging of these cases is important for a couple of reasons. Number one, there is a...in Nebraska we have the Speedy Trial Act, which provides that if an individual is not brought to trial within six months and does not waive his or her rights, then he or she must be discharged from custody and the charges are dropped. That is important in Douglas County, because, as you'll see from looking at the figures that we've handed out, the case load of cases going into the three month to six month period has increased over the last year from 58 cases during that time period to 176 cases. If that trend continues, it's just simply assured that we're going to have people walking out of jail without a trial, without having been convicted, without the opportunity for the state to prove its case. The converse of that is that as those cases increase in the length of time that they are pending is that these people, if they have not been convicted, are sitting in jail for usual...or it's going to get to be the norm, up to six months without ever having been convicted. There are certainly those that will be released on bail, but there are those who are held without bond. And it's not unusual, in a drug case, to hold an individual without bond where there is a chance of flight from prosecution. So we've got people who are either sitting in jail without having been convicted, and sitting there only for the purpose of, at least some time in the future, of walking out of jail without ever going to trial simply because of having their rights denied under the Speedy Trial Act. If we look at that sheet showing those figures, the figures right at the top refer to the civil aging. That's important because we see that on the civil side of it, those are the ordinary citizens, their case times are moving back. They can't even get their cases to trial, and the reason for that, and that number will continue to increase and it will probably start increasing by geometrical proportions because we have to try the criminal cases first. And, if we're not even getting to the criminal cases, that I think indicates to us that we're not going to get to the civil cases. So, in effect, what will happen is that at some point we will be denying to the people there the right to trial whatsoever. I think it's important that we increase the number of judges so that they can handle this workload, and so