

judicial district. I just think it's an acute problem that we've put off far too long, and I urge your passage of LB 181. And I'd like to give the balance of my time to Senator Lindsay.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Chizek. I'd like to take a shot at trying to answer Senator Moore's question as far as the judicial resources. Right now, under our current system, the judicial resources...there's a point system that is used to determine which judicial districts should have how many judges. And to arrive at a point total, it's a formula to arrive at that, that includes number, or the caseload, and how many jury trials, how much travel time each of the judges has, all those different factors that come into it. Right now, as of a couple of weeks ago, Douglas County was heads and shoulders above anybody else on that point system because of the enormous caseload. Since that time, again a couple weeks ago, the Judicial Resources Commission met, because there was a vacancy in Columbus caused by the resignation of a judge, or the retirement of a judge and, based on that point total, the Judicial Resources Commission said that judge ought to go to Omaha. This is what we were arguing a couple of years ago as far as what will happen. That now, of course, moves the Columbus area back up in their point total because they now have one judge handling what was being handled by two judges. So the next...before that, Columbus had been second from the bottom on their point total. On the bottom, I believe, is the judgeship from Senator Wickersham's area and there may be a retirement occurring there in the next year or so. In that case, it's a pretty good bet that that judgeship would also be transferred, whether it be to Douglas County, or to Columbus, or to Lancaster County, depending on what that point total is. Even after Douglas County received that additional judge a couple weeks ago, it is still at the top of the caseload point system. It still would be in line to get a judgeship. But I think there is at this point a very strong argument to be made, and I did pass around an article from the World-Herald that there is a strong sentiment, and for once I agree with the World-Herald, there is a strong sentiment that one of those judgeships should go back to Columbus. That would be the hope, of course, that determination, we should make that clear, that determination is not made in here whether it goes to Douglas County, Lancaster, Columbus, wherever. That determination is made by the Judicial Resources Commission. With that, I would urge the advancement