

schedule things in areas that would be convenient to the parties. But just because of the numbers in a lot of the parts of the state doesn't justify them meeting there. So you can have them all run out, instead of being able to handle maybe 50 cases here, you're going to have them run out for two or three cases in some part of the State of Nebraska. If we had more judges, it would make more sense to do that. When we're cutting the number of judges down, it just isn't going to work, and the system is going to fail. If you don't like the appellate court system, I understand that, and that is something we can deal with, and you can vote it up or down. But to try to, at this point, place things in there that are merely rhetoric, so far as I'm concerned, and the system is not well served by that, and I would object to this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Haberman, yours is the last light on. Do you wish to use this as your closing, too, Senator Haberman?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes, I'll use it. Senator Kristensen says we are giving them the option. We are giving them the option to stay in the district. Now isn't that something. They can decide, they can dec...we shouldn't mandate that they are going to be in the district. We should give them the option to be in the district. That's a great concession, that's really great. Now, Senator Kristensen, you mentioned not enough cases, I didn't mention not enough cases, you mentioned that. So that raises the question about how many cases are going to be heard. I didn't raise that question. So I can't really understand why the objection, why this objection to having the judges live in the district. I can't understand the objection to hearing the cases in the district, other than they're judges and we treat them different. That's fine, we can treat them different. But let's have them work in the district where they're appointed, where they're going to hear the cases. We have court rooms, we have the facilities just as they do in the eastern part of the state. Now Senator Kristensen will tell you that they have no juries to deal with, they have no expense. Well, it is an expense to the citizens to hire an attorney and send them to Lincoln. What do they charge, 100 bucks and hour? That's travel time, too. That's travel time. Motels, meals, a couple days, it's going to cost a lot of money. It would cost half as much, basically, if they held it in the district. I think the people are entitled to having the appellate court cases heard in the district. There's nothing wrong with this, there's nothing