

April 6, 1992

LB 1059

whether there is a judge in the 5th district that is ready to retire, or one in the 1st district that is ready to retire, or die, or be removed, but I don't think so. So you're being asked to make a decision today to remove a judge at some point in time when you won't have the foggiest idea what the case load looks like in that district. Even if you think case loads are the ultimate determinator of whether or not a judge should be there, you're being asked to make a decision at some point in time at which you have no idea what the case load will look like. I don't think that's valid.

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It's not sound. You're being told also that LB 1059 will save money. Well it might if those judges ever do decide to die or retire or resign and they are for some reason not replaced, but I have a feeling they will be replaced some place else. The other thing that troubles me about 1059 is that we're all of a sudden talking about saving money at the expense of our citizens and I don't think that's valid. I heard Senator Crosby get up and say the rural areas are different because we have transportation. Yes, Senator Crosby, we have roads...

SENATOR CONWAY: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...we have automobiles, but it costs us to use them.

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Beutler, you're next, please.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Conway, members of the Legislature, there are two other things I'd like to ask you to look at that I passed out to you that I think illustrate what this bill is about and what it is not about. The handout that I'm talking about right now, it says, districts 11 and 12, per LB 1059, size and population compared. These are districts 11 and 12 as on the map that has been out to you on 1059. The reason that I wanted to ask you to look at that and to look at the comparison is because it says loads about this distance question and the traveling of judges and whether this bill has anything to do with that. It does not. It is comparing workloads of judges, travel time aside, and here's how the point is illustrated. If you look at district 11 under the new districts and compare it which is southwest Nebraska, the McCook area and North Platte