

April 6, 1992

LB 1059

59,000 in '20, 37,000 in '90, 36 percent reduction in population, 1 judge then, 1 judge today. District 18, 45,000 in 1920, 31,000 today, 31 percent reduction, 1 judge in 1920, 1 judge today. These are...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHIZEK: ...just a few, colleagues. I can go on with the litany of things. I said earlier, if you cannot grab this issue, we'll never be able to get a hold. I'm not holding up flags or anything else like Senator Kristensen said. I'm interested in redistricting and I think that this body, by and large, recognizes that we must address this issue in this year before it's too late.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I agree a little bit with Senator Kristensen. This would certainly ease Senator Beutler's pain, but I think we have to go a little bit further, look at the movie where it's actually several people's pain that was eased and that's how we've got to look at it. Most importantly, what it would ease is the budget because we're spending money on people that shouldn't be there. We simply have too many judges. And for those of you who don't want to listen to a wacko, bleeding-heart, liberal Democrat, let's listen to 2 years ago when Governor Kay Orr vetoed LB 147 because the budget makes it imprudent to add judges and then the following year she says, "LB 880 would create 2 additional district court judges. Last year a similar a bill was vetoed because of the condition of the budget but judicial workload was also a concern. Until I'm convinced that the current district court structure provides the most equitable statewide distribution of judicial workload, I can't support increasing the number of judges." That's Kay Orr telling us the same thing that we've been trying to say and that is, and for once I agreed with her, that is our district court workload is horribly inequitable. It is horribly misallocated. We simply are not doing what is fair to the people of the state. Whether those people be in Douglas County or whether those people be anywhere else in the state, let's look at the figures. Now certainly Senator Wickersham and Senator Kristensen tell us that we can't just look at case loads. I suggest you can't just look at travel either. It's a heck of a lot easier to travel, to drive around a district than it is to sit through a, in Douglas County