

myself and three other senators were at the hearing for a period of time. In fact, I guess we planned not to stay the entire time but to get back here to participate in the floor discussion but the hearing was absolutely interesting and we felt ourselves compelled to stay and listen to the entire hearing process. At that hearing, there was a strong case made by a judge from Sarpy County for the need for an additional judge in that area. The Judicial Resources Commission, after hearing all of the testimony, and I think having some very good frank discussion, made an effort to not only find that there was a need in Sarpy County but there was even an effort made to...to pass a motion which would have recognized that need. However, that wasn't on the agenda so the commission, I think rightfully, waited and agendaized that question for the hearing here in Lincoln which occurred on, I think, May 10th, and received testimony at that time regarding the need in Sarpy County. The process that they undertook in the hearing that myself, and the other three senators would need to speak for themselves, but I was extremely impressed that this was a commission that was taking their job seriously. And, you know, bygones being bygones, I don't know what might have transpired in years past but I feel, with the proper information and the opportunity, that this commission can and will work. And I think, given the information that I understand will be available as early as this fall from the State Court Administrator's Office, and perhaps with the study that this amendment calls for, I think this commission deserves every opportunity to recommend to us what is appropriate and where the...where the vacancies occur, and I guess I think we need to give it that additional chance. And I felt...I wouldn't have felt perhaps as comfortable saying that except for watching their process a little more closely during the last month or two. I really think that they're conscientious, that they want to do the right thing. They're not there as stooges for anyone and so I support the amendment and urge the body to adopt it and give the Judicial Resources Commission a chance to react and provide the proper recommendations. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Withem would move to amend the Brashear-Wickersham amendment. (FA222 appears on page 2172 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem to open on his amendment.