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LB 189

LR 93

issue of whether or not the Judicial Resources Commission has to meet in the affected district. That language, the old statutory language has been removed by the amendment. It would be at the discretion of the Judicial Resources Commission whether or not they wish to hold a meeting in the affected district. We are intending, however, to add language to the amendment which would allow the Resources Commission to use teleconferencing methods to hold their hearings if they wish to do so. The idea is that we should not make it so difficult for anyone living anywhere in the State of Nebraska to participate in one of the hearings that they would not do so. And, of course, if you wish to travel from Harrison to Lincoln to participate in a hearing, it is a significant burden. On the other hand, if you can travel to Chadron or Scottsbluff or Alliance and participate in a hearing, that makes it possible for you to have your say in a process that might affect your very vital interests. That, of course, is a process that this body is becoming more familiar with in terms of legislative hearings. In fact, as you're probably aware, the Revenue Committee used that process recently in the hearing for LR 93CA and I thought it went very well. We're...as I noted, there will be an amendment later on that will specifically authorize that same kind of a process for the Judicial Resources Commission which, hopefully, will allow it to operate in a slightly more efficient fashion and at the same time assure access to the commission by all of those persons who would wish to testify. But, beyond that, I think Senator Lindsay is making an...has brought an appropriate amendment as a resolution of the difficulties we've been experiencing this year in this body, determining what judges should be authorized and to help in the process...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...of continuing to define what I'm sure will be an ongoing debate in this body over the allocation of judicial resources. I would urge your support of the Lindsay amendment at the moment and will be anxious to participate and listen to the rest of the debate, not only on this amendment but what I'm sure will be further amendments to the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Ma'am President and members of the Legislature, this is astounding. They can't even get through