

judges deal alone, is taking a million dollars a year hit...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and if we could sit down and talk about it, I could very easily design for you a system that we'd get by with five or six fewer judges and no less access by the public to justice. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Is there any further discussion on the the Lindsay amendment? Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, just briefly to respond to a comment that Senator Beutler made with regard to the use of the caseloads statistics and the failure to look at the issues in terms of a total system. The amendment expressly requires the Judicial Resources Commission to make annual reports to the Legislature. Those would involve a systemwide analysis of all the judgeships in the State of Nebraska as I read the amendment and I believe that that will be an ongoing and valuable process to the Legislature. Now if you want to say that the judicial caseloads statistics are so flawed that they are absolutely meaningless and you can't use them to make even a simple judgment about whether it would be worthwhile to have a Judicial Resources Commission on a specific vacancy, perhaps I'm not willing to go that far. I think that the statistics have some validity, they do not have all of the validity that some would claim for them and as indicated I don't believe that the caseloads tell the whole story and that is essentially the issue about whether or not they tell the whole story particularly in those districts which may have lower caseloads statistics than others. It is fairly clear to me, and I think it is fairly clear to other members of this body that caseload statistics by themselves are not the sole determining factor, but be that as it may, if you have high caseloads statistics there is no reason to expect that you should have a reduction of judicial resources in your district. So it may be an indicator that is perfectly workable as a floor. It is not an indicator that is workable as a ceiling and on that basis I think that Senator Lindsay's amendment can make an appropriate distinction based on the current caseload statistics and of course as we have noted earlier, we all fully expect those caseload statistics will improve. So I hope that you will eventually support the Lindsay amendment. As I've indicated there will be an amendment to the