

southeast corner in the State of Nebraska. If you remove a judge from that district, there are three judges there now, if you remove a judge from that district it would have the second highest caseloads in the State of Nebraska at least on current statistics. Based on current statistics that district would have the second highest caseload in the State of Nebraska. Why would it be sensible to remove a judge from that district? District number eight is the largest judicial district in the State of Nebraska. It covers Cherry County, Keyha Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, Holt, Blaine, Luke, Garfield, Taylor, Valley, Greeley, Sherman, Howard and Custer County. It is larger than several states. It is served by two judges. Two judges serve an area larger than many other states, district judges. What could rationally be said about a process where district number eight had to be served by one district judge while the Legislature fiddled away in making a decision about whether another one should be appointed to replace one in a vacancy? I don't understand that. District number twelve has been consistently pointed to as a district that has an excess in judicial resources. Well, I don't know if you can serve the twelfth district with less than the judicial resources that are currently allocated due to geography and the caseloads arising in specific areas within the district. I'm not saying you can't, maybe you can, but it's not going to be very pretty if you try. The major source of the caseload in the twelfth district is Scottsbluff. There are two district judges that sit in Scottsbluff and I think most people believe that they have a more than adequate caseload. There is a judge that sits in Alliance. Now the judge that sits in Alliance may have a slightly lower caseload than the other judges across the State of Nebraska. The real judges that are at issue are in Dawes County and in Kimball County. You heard Senator Matzke say earlier that if there wasn't a judge in Kimball County that most of his district would not have a district judge available. I believe him because the same situation would pertain in Dawes County if Judge Empson were not there. I don't believe that Judge Silverman sitting in Box Butte County could serve Sioux, Dawes, Box Butte and Sheridan County. The caseloads would be too high and in fact a few years ago the Legislature explicitly made a decision that the caseloads were too high in that portion of the state and added a district judge because the then district judge, Judge Moran was unable to handle the workload, flatly unable to handle the workload. I don't believe that very much has changed.