

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to the judicial system, we have a set of circumstances where judges want to come in here and give the impression that all of them are great. When you can give them specific examples, then they will admit there are problems; but you never see a program put together by the Chief Justice or any collection of judges to correct and remedy those deficiencies. They would rather hide them, pretend that they don't exist, sit back, wait it out and hope these rats don't do too much that has a high enough profile for the public to become aware of it. I think what we ought to try to do is get a consensus on a reasonable increase if there must be an increase and the Legislature is determined to give one; 5 percent you may think is low, I don't; 20 percent is way too high. So somewhere between there we should be able to strike an accord. Five percent, Senator Wesely, may be too low, twenty is too high. If Senator Langford, if it was her bill, I'm sure she and I could reach an accord because I'd raise my offer to 5.5 percent.

PRESIDENT: Time. Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. There are a number of good things that happen in courtrooms. You wouldn't expect it hearing the debate today. Maybe it's a distorted view, maybe you're only getting one perspective. We happen to have a law firm that represents a lot of people, particularly employees. We happen to file a lot of federal cases, civil rights cases. We have won several of them. We have lost some that we thought we should have won, that we thought the judge did not rule in our favor, but that is what happens on occasion. We have represented minorities on race discrimination charges and we've been successful. And the judges in the state and federal courts are the ones that issue those rulings and compel the employers and the state and whoever is the defendant to reinstate these people to their jobs, to pay them back wages, to give them benefits and commensurate compensation to make them whole as far as their damages are concerned. We have represented women in cases of sex discrimination and sexual harassment cases and the judges in those courtrooms are the ones that issue the rulings that uphold the rights of women not to be sexually discriminated against and uphold the rights of women not to be sexually harassed in the workplace. Those kind of