

harassment standards for the state, and a redefinition of that. It can be whether or not somebody is entitled to a homestead exemption. It can be rights in prisons. This is the person you and I have hired and said, here is your gate into state government. You got a problem, our bureaucracy isn't working, you have some rights, state government isn't giving them to you, here is your party to the State of Nebraska. White, black, rich, poor, we make the door open to everybody and this is our person that we have said can do these kinds of things on behalf of the public, not the white public, not the red public, not the black public, the public. This is our employee that we have held out and said, as best as we can do as a legislative branch, here is the public counsel to give you a way to deal with difficult, intricate questions that involve your rights to respect to a bureaucracy. If we would entrust that person to be our representative on the rights of prisoners, on the rights of employees, on the rights of taxpayers, on the rights of ethnic groups to be free from a workplace filled with racial discrimination, it seems to me it is fair ground to put this one in there, too, knowing full well that after a speedy determination of the issue, you have a right to the courts. And a right to the courts will, depending upon how far you take it, get you to a trial de novo on the record, which means that the courts will make their own determination as to what is reasonable in the interpretation of a statute. Remember what the task here is for the public counsel. It is statutory interpretation of the definitions that we are passing...

SENATOR LABEDZ: One minute, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...compared to a line of documentation. Does the documentation establish that the item is inside the statutory definition? That is the process that we are looking at. It seems to me that the public counsel is well qualified to do that function. They can do this task. We ought to give it to them. We ought to pass this amendment, move on to the other seven that await us.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President and members, thank you. I would like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a couple of questions, some of which were just commented on by Senator Landis, and it had to do with the interpretation. You are saying that interpretation of the statutes as related here, I was wondering