

everything they could this time, and they may succeed, but I think they are going to have more difficulty than they envisioned, and this latest little act of greed will have its part to play in the overall picture that will emerge. Senator Ashford is standing there feeling like Picasso right now. He has his painter's palette in his left hand, has his brush in his right hand and, on the canvas of the Legislature, he is painting something that nobody really understands except himself, and when he gets through, he is going to find out that it has played havoc with other things that are to come up. Senator Ashford, it is all right to be a painter, but when time comes to put all these greedy bills together and extract more money from the Legislature, you have to be more than a painter, and I am afraid that there has been overreaching. The rules have been suspended and that is all so far. You haven't yet voted to add this additional judge, and rather than let people stand up here and talk about all the abuse cases and the backlog, that could reflect more on what the juvenile courts are not doing now that they ought to be doing, and sometimes you ought to review how they handle some of those cases and the decisions they actually hand out. They give us charts and graphs with numbers but they don't tell us anything behind those numbers. So, if you adopt the amendment, you've just got a bill that is going to add three more judges, and, remember, when you increase those salaries by that large amount, you have got to factor into that the three additional judges that you are adding. So you are not just raising the salary for those who encumber the benches now, but three new knots on the log will have to be paid.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to remind the body, if I can take a minute or two, of what happened in last session, the short session of the last term. This issue also came up. In fact, it was headed for consent calendar and then it was removed from consent calendar and it was not agreed to last year. And there were certain things that were discussed and Senator Chambers alluded to a couple of them. I wanted to at least remind the body of these topics before we got to a vote. No one is arguing that there is not a lot of backlog. No one is arguing that these are probably some of the most crucial and excruciating and time-consuming decisions that have to be made. No one is arguing that there is a need for a speedy, sound, fair, reasonable court system on juvenile cases. What