

complexity of the paper work that is required in each and every case that they were not able to make a great deal of progress in the backlog because of the inability of the staff to keep up with the increased ability to hear the cases with the addition of the judges. I don't know in the past, as I said, whether we approached this in the proper fashion, seemed to be right at the time that we were doing it. But in order to accomplish, I think, a more economical use of the seven judges that we currently have and to afford to those people who have cases to be heard or cases to be administered by the Workers' Compensation Court that to get the maximum use of the money that we are currently appropriating to the Workers' Compensation Court that it would appear that we should add the additional staffing at this time and, hopefully, this then might encourage the whole system to work better, more efficiently, more effectively, deliver more value for the dollar involved and provide less heartache for the people that are involved, caught up in the system and have to wait in some cases rather lengthy amounts of time for a hearing or a disposition in their individual cases. So I would urge the adoption of the Hall amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hannibal, please, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members, I guess I'm going to rise and I'm going to oppose the amendment and it's not because they aren't making some very good arguments, both Senator Hall and Senator Coordsen, but maybe base my defense, if you will, the committee's decisions on what we could do, how much we could do and where we could do it, preface everything by suggesting to you that we have hundreds of millions of dollars worth of requests that we have before us that we could not say yes to. Most of the comments so far that I have heard by some of you on the floor and some of my constituents when they saw our numbers come out that why in the world are we spending so much money and why are we spending so much more than the Governor's proposals. And so we have had to try to justify the needs out there. Now today all we are doing is adding to that number. And it's not wrong but understand what direction you're headed. We don't have worthless requests that come to us by the agencies in committee. We don't have unrealistic, unmeritorious things that come to us. The things that we have come to us, requests we have come to us have merit. They are worthwhile. We have to decide how we're going to spend the limited resources that we