

amendment. Certainly my decision is not made in stone, but on the surface I think the plea bargaining and getting into counseling is a very important role in this matter. And I guess I'd like to hear what Senator Chambers has to say before we get at least certainly to a vote on this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Yes. Senator Chizek, please, followed by Senator Smith and Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Just a few comments in general. We, as a committee, have taken some lambasting on occasion this morning. And people have a right to do that. However, I'm not going to stand for it. The committee had a workload of 127 bills this year. If you look at the committee statement you see six people testifying in support of the bill, no opponents, three neutral testifiers. Those people who testified in a neutral capacity did so because they wanted the five years increased even further. In my discussions, a couple of discussions I've had with Senator Chambers about this particular bill, he had some concerns. I said to him that there were a couple of areas that I had some concerns. However, I felt that the overall good was probably surfaced on past what my concerns were. There are very few bills that come out of any committee and come to the floor of this body that anyone, if they want to, can pick apart. I think that the committee did have some discussions, some concerns. When we met and we moved the bill to the floor we thought that perhaps some of those concerns could be addressed. However, some of the concerns that we're hearing about now were not expressed in the committee or the executive sessions. As you know, this bill moved out late. And I think our friends on the Appropriations Committee have gone through, this past week or so, some of the same things that any committee does from time to time. It's easy to stand here and chastise and criticize. But I know their workload, and I know the Judiciary Committee's workload. I don't resent attempting to make any piece of legislation better when it goes to the floor. That's what it is all about. There are 49 of us here, and the opportunity for dialogue exists once it's here. That's what we're doing this morning, and I think that's the way the system was designed, and that's what it's for. Senator Chambers has an amendment, maybe more than one that he'll offer. And, if he has convinced 24 other senators, then his amendment will be adopted. But I think to criticize a committee that has the workload...