

branch and the judicial branch to impinge on activities by the Legislature. In each part of the Constitution dealing with each branch, there will be words to the effect that whatever the duties of that branch are they belong exclusively to that branch except where otherwise provided by the Constitution. So although we talk about a separation of powers, there is not now and never has been a complete separation where everything legislative is done only by the Legislature. The Governor, as a matter of fact, is given more power in terms of voting strength than any number fewer than 30 legislators. That's how much the Governor is allowed by the Constitution to intrude into our proceedings. Veto a bill and it takes 30 of us to override that veto. So the Governor starts out, when that veto is issued, with 29 votes, you can say. I see Baack looking up. I wanted somebody to look up with a question in their mind as to, is that true or not? Actually, it's a number, whatever number fewer than 30 remains. (Laughter.) I think you see the point though. And I have to say these things in this way, Senator Hannibal, to sometimes get people's brains operating. As far as what the court can do, we have seen them strike down legislation that we enact, and it will do that and we have no appeal. Once the Supreme Court says something we do is unconstitutional, we have no appeal. We can enact a proposed amendment to the Constitution and put it out there and the people can vote on it and it can be properly attached to the Constitution as far as procedure, but the Supreme Court can even rule that an amendment added to the Constitution is unconstitutional, and it has done so. Now how much power is that over our procedures and, in a sense, even over the Constitution? How can that which has been made officially and formally a part of the Constitution be unconstitutional? Read some of the court decisions and you will see how that can be done, and in some instances the court is right. The court is right in doing that. But, nevertheless, not only can they check and balance us, they can completely stymie what we do. When it comes to the activities of the Legislature, we travel like the old stereotypical notion from Cinderella's day of the stepchild. People who have worked for other agencies and come to the Legislature will ask, how in the world can these agencies have so much staff,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...so much equipment, access to everything they need to do their job? And the Legislature travels around in run-over shoes and holey britches and skirts, and we just sit