

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and conflicting positions made clear when one of these sets of circumstances will be put before us. The judges are certainly no better, and some may be worse than the ordinary citizen filling shoe leather in this society. Such being the case, I don't want the creation of a court system whose very coming into being denies present constitutional guarantees of appeal directly to the Supreme Court to those people and groups who presently enjoy those constitutionally protected rights. So I hope that you will vote aye on this motion that I have before you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Before recognizing Senator Kristensen, the Chair is pleased to note that Senator Jacklyn Smith has two guests under the north balcony. We have Mona Damico and Linda Brown visiting from Hastings, Nebraska. Would you ladies please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're please to have you with us. The member from the 37th Legislative District, please, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. It's been awhile since we've gotten back to what this amendment actually will do. And so I'm going to take this opportunity to begin to review with you, so when you go back to your districts and people do ask you some of these questions about what are we doing, and what about LR 8 and so on, that you can start to have some point of reference. You know in 1970, our Supreme Court in this state didn't have any cases on backlog. Every case that got filed processed through the system rather quickly, or as quickly as it could, given the time restrains that people had to prepare their briefs, prepare their oral argument, and the judges had the opportunity to ponder those cases and to make their decision and publish that opinion and so on. That was 1970. In about 1976, things started to change a little bit, actually it was in the early seventies, and so this Legislature decided let's look at what this growing number of cases are going to be. And so we commissioned a study and report that was done during the year of 1975 and was published in 1976. And in there they had numbers of cases that were docketed. They went back to 1965, not all that long ago. And in 1965 there were only about 270, 280 cases that were filed in the Nebraska Supreme Court. Today there are over 1,200 cases in not that long a period of time. Our backlog in 1970, as I said, was