

also be treated equally.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I've got to speak again because I want to address something Senator Wehrbein stated, and he is one of the few nonlawyers, or persons not trained in the law to speak on this matter. And I think he is entitled to a direct response to some of the comments that he made. But before I begin, I would like to establish something by asking Senator Kristensen one or two questions. Senator Kristensen, you said there would be...there exists now about a 500 case backlog. And I'm not quibbling with whether that is more or less, but to get a number. Excuse me, I didn't hear you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen, please.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, that's the ballpark, 500 is a pretty accurate figure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what percentage of those would be criminal cases, and if you could convert that percentage to a number of the 500, I would appreciate hearing that from you.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I can only go in numbers of filings, because I don't have numbers of the backlog, but I've got numbers of the cases filed, and I would assume they would be representative. Forty percent of that is going to be criminal, and the reason I went to law school was so I didn't have to use my head in figures, so whatever 40 percent of 500 is, 60 percent of that would be civil, of the criminal cases 70 percent of those are felonies.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so if we took 40 percent, which would be 40 of each 100, and there are 500, that would be 200 criminal cases, which would include misdemeanors presently. Would you agree?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's correct, except that I think in the backlog those criminal cases are dealt with first in a more expeditious manner. So I don't know if I can extrapolate back that there are 200 criminal cases sitting there on the backlog.