

to be protected. How unfair it would be for the Legislature to do this or that, because it's going to hurt the people. And here the Legislature cavalierly takes away rights from the citizens. There is, in fact, a tension between the government and those who are governed. Thomas Jefferson said the government is best that governs least, and he's not the first one to say that, just like, by the way, Mark Twain wasn't the first one to say that the reports of his death had been grossly exaggerated. George Washington, from my reading, I don't like some of these people, but that doesn't stop me from reading about them and studying history. I got to follow their footprints to get all the way back to the scene of the crime, or trace from the scene of the crime to the criminal, and George is one of those people. He had a speech writer way back then and one of his speech writers wrote that reports of his death had been greatly exaggerated. I read editorials, I hear statements from learned people attributing that sentiment to Mark Twain, yet it was George Washington and it was a speech writer for George Washington who did it. Now, look at all these things that I bring to the Legislature. Look how impoverished this body would be were I not here. But the body will pay more attention to little tidbits of history, such as that, than to the very serious issue that is before us here. And it could be frustrating to watch the rights of the people go down in flames, well, no, not in flames. That's too dramatic. We are not taking away the public's right with a bang, but rather with a whimper. There has not been the type of serious discussion, full-blown discussion that a matter of this seriousness requires. I think I've gotten into the record all the things that I should want to have there. But I have not succeeded in impressing on any substantial number of my colleagues the seriousness of what is being done here, the necessity to stop and not do it. If this amendment that I'm offering is adopted, even if you decide later on to take it off, then we have a negotiating situation. I will stop calling the court a big-shot court, if you will allow people who are convicted of felonies to have an appeal to the Supreme Court. But that failing, I see the Supreme Court, in all sincerity on my part, as nothing other than a court for the big-shots and the elitists.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Maybe what ought to be done here is the humming of a dirge. Maybe somebody ought to speak a eulogy, because rights of the public are being buried by the