

with the issues raised by Senator Withem's amendment. The problem is similar to what Senator Bernard-Stevens indicated. A lot of people in here feel more affinity with governmental subdivisions as entities than they do the people who are to be served by those subdivisions, the people for whose benefit and welfare those subdivisions exist. Government exists to do for the people what they can't do for themselves, and that doesn't mean to rob them. Saying it a little differently than Senator Bernard-Stevens said it, when a thief is caught with the goods, he has to give them back and we understand that if we're talking about ordinary, natural persons. What this body ought to consider doing with all of these bills is putting in a provision that within 30-days after passage the Attorney General will be required to take an original action to the Supreme Court to challenge or have determined the constitutionality of these bills and require the Supreme Court to deal with them on an expedited basis. If we mean what we say, and we don't want unconstitutional taxes extracted from the people, knowing that if the legislation is enacted without Senator Withem's amendment, the people will be out of that money, they can't get it back, and an unconstitutional, in effect, illegal act had given these political subdivisions a windfall. If you are under the care of a trustee and the trustee robs your till, how can that trustee be said to be discharging his or her fiduciary duty? If the government is to be put in a position to steal from the public, how can it be said that the government is stealing from the public for the public's own good? That's what we're saying here. We spend a lot of time together on a day like this and pretty soon we think we're the whole world and don't realize that there are people out there hurting who look for some relief from this Legislature. Then they hear the legislators stand up here and say, it's too inconvenient on these political subdivisions if we require that justice be done to the people. Senator Hannibal, when you talk about some of these bigwigs gaining from the system created, should Senator Withem's amendment be adopted, that is no basis for voting against the establishment of a proper principle of government operation. But it also shows the problem with this system. Any time the ordinary person gains something in court, by way of a legal decision, the big people will gain from that small person's effort, it will always read down to their benefit. And the same way if the Legislature enacts a law that benefits the ordinary people, since the corporations are defined as persons they benefit automatically. But how many ordinary people, or even small businesses benefitted under LB 775? We can always