

you're going to be there for the rest of your life. I put that in there, although a bill that Senator Chambers has introduced may make that the highest sentence that one could receive in this state, and that's the reason that I drafted it into the bill in that manner. Senator Chambers would like to put all criminal cases into the Supreme Court and not have the court of appeals deal with it. Let me tell you the problem with doing that, philosophically, is that the Supreme Court, if you put all the criminal cases in and say that they're not the problem, you've got all these appeals that come to our Supreme Court today, and the criminal cases get expedited, in other words they go first, that, in effect, pushes everything else, all the other civil cases, all the labor cases, all the contract cases, all of our personal injury cases, they get...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...pushed further back, and further back. Somewhere you have to make the decision why do you have an appeal. The appellate court here has a philosophy and the purpose of being an error-correcting court. Errors that occurred in the lower courts, you're going to review them. The Supreme Court has a different purpose and a policy. The Supreme Court's purpose is to pronounce what the common law, or what the law of the land should be when the Legislature hasn't created the law. There are grey areas. There are areas of interpretation, that's the Supreme Court's purpose, not the court of appeals. I would oppose Senator Chambers' amendment in this case. I will give to him practically it involves a very small number of cases, no doubt about it. I'm not going to stand up here and say that this is going to topple the appellate system at all. But it does start to encroach upon, and I think it's a problem with the whole fundamental concept of the appellate court, if we start to put cases like that, mandate them over to the Supreme Court. Quite frankly, there are going to be cases that are...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Senator. I'm just... Senator Chambers will put his light on and we'll finish this.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. We'll now go to Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, you're next.