

court of last resort. Together the courts hear 2,000 cases a year. The Supreme Court backlog contains 80 cases, while the intermediate court has 250 cases in backlog. The Supreme Court holds 11 sessions five days per year, while their intermediate court convenes only 10 times. Each court decides which litigants may present all arguments and the majority of the cases considered by the high court, all arguments are not heard. My point is, the courts hear 2,000 cases a year. Now we have a backlog of 650 now in our Supreme Court, so according to this amendment, if the number goes up from 650, isn't that right, Senator Kristensen?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: No.

SENATOR HABERMAN: How many backlog do we have? Where am I making my error then? Would you please take my time and tell me?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I don't have that much time, Senator Haberman, but it's not based on the number of backlog and the increased numbers in the backlog, it's based on case filings.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you very much.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Okay, very good.

SENATOR HABERMAN: There have been 2,000 cases filed in Iowa. The last I heard there was 1,260 backlog when we were out campaigning on this issue and explaining it to the people. So if we take the number of cases, Senator Kristensen says that if it shall be increased by 150 appeals, we get three more judges. Now we know that's going to happen. Again I say, do not support the amendment and if the courts become overloaded, they can do the same thing they're doing now, they can come in and say, members of the Legislature, we're overloaded, we have too much work, we can't get it out, the citizens are suffering, then we can give them some more judges. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I also support Chris Beutler's amendment, Senator Beutler's amendment, and I believe it's important that we recognize that this Legislature should not surrender our authority to create those new judgeships. I think again that Senator Kristensen was correct