

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, there is no one else wishing to speak but probably many wishing that I would not speak. However, I must. Senator Will, you made some very pertinent comments and especially the last one where this will legitimate an illegitimate system. And I don't think that those who support 186 will present it to the public in that way and they are the ones who might have the most money to carry on a campaign in favor of 186, just like the appellate court bill. I felt that I was speaking in behalf of what was in the interests of the people but I was the only one virtually with any public platform who did so and I was smashed at the polls when the matter was voted on and when it came before the Legislature for implementation. So I know what this Legislature is and I know how it will act. I know it's not strong. But, as you pointed out, by having the Constitution make it all legitimate, people can feel easier about being bludgeoned by these special interest groups to give them this consideration and then dump the responsibility for making up the slack on those, as you say, who take the hit every time. It's kind of ironic that the ones who send us here are the ones who are being ignored. The lobbyists don't vote in sufficient numbers to send us here. The judges don't constitute enough votes to put a single one of us here and they don't all live in any single legislative district. The people who vote to send us here are the people who don't get the consideration from us. We are to be their spokespersons. I think there are a lot of issues on which we can disagree and when the disagreements are occurring, depending on which side we are, or maybe those on both sides will say the people's interests are not being taken care of and that's an argument that is frequently heard. But who can say that we're legitimately acting in the interests of the people when we offer a constitutional amendment to them that says the Legislature now constitutionally may stick it to you and it's constitutional to do it. And we say that's in the interest of the people? When has it ever been in the interest of the victim to have his or her pocket picked? When was it in the interest of the person to be confronted by the highwayman who will put the pistol up and say, give me your money? And it's... Tim said Robin Hood. And it's voluntary when you give it to me because you don't have to give it to me if you don't want to but there is a price to pay if you don't. So most people, based on the logic of the highwayman, voluntarily gives up his or her money to avoid being shot. A vote to indefinitely postpone this proposition is a vote on the proposition. It's saying that we don't think this