

dresses on the same way that our colleagues who are ladies put their dresses on. These are not a higher category of people. They are not better than anybody. They deserve to have their work scrutinized. Other employees are parts of bargaining units. They have to justify an increase. There are agency heads who can review the increases that people below them or their subordinates are going to receive. The judges are separate, unto themselves. Nobody reviews them, to nobody are they accountable, and they don't have to justify a raise to anybody. They are all in it together and they all are interested in a raise, and, frankly, I understand that. I understand them wanting to get as much money as they possibly can get, and they ought to just say it, and not send people in here, and not have these lobbyists running around playing like they are children of a higher God or some such nonsense. To say that the appropriations process is an adequate way to review whether or not judges should get an increase I think is totally inadequate. The power of the purse string...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is all that the Legislature has that really carries any weight. Parliament used the power of the purse, Congress uses it. Other Legislatures around the country, who have not been put in such a lickspittle position as we've allowed this Legislature to be put into, use that power. I am not in favor of allowing these other branches of government, even by using certain members of the body as instrumentality to achieve it, I am not in favor of those branches kicking the Legislature around, our forsaking the responsibility that we have. I support Senator Withem's amendment, and if it is rejected, we are going to stay on LB 394 for a long, long, long, long time.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Beutler is the next speaker, followed by Senator Kristensen, Withem, Robinson, and Lindsay. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I also would like to speak in favor of the amendment and in favor of great caution in terms of making changes in the procedure that we use to approve judicial salaries. I think it should be understood that the judiciary in this particular state has enormous independence, a lot more independence than they have in other places. For example, the judges in this state are subject