

fully how it has been used. And if they do understand it, then they know that it is a turf battle, and the turf that I am going to do all I can to protect is that of the Legislature. The very attempt to raise these judges salaries by way of the appropriations process rather than a bill shows the arrogance of the judiciary, the contempt they have toward the ability of this Legislature to understand how it is being snookered. I understand it. Not only do I understand it, I will call their hand on it. Who in here feels that the Legislature has anything more effective than controlling the purse strings by which to exercise some oversight. Why do you think the Constitution has stated that each Legislature has to provide for the cost of government through an appropriation, that we have to take a specific act to expend the money of this state. When it comes to the judiciary, the only way that there is any review of what they do is when a bill comes before us and the chief justice has to sit down there and justify this increase. That is the only opportunity when questions have been raised, sometimes even by lawyers and other judges, that we have the opportunity, as a Legislature, to put those questions on the record before the individual who, under the Constitution, has been named the administrator of the court system. That is the job of the chief justice. It was a former chief justice who did a lot of the cajoling and persuading that got us to the point where we are now in terms of judges salary. Instead of each level of judge having to come in and justify a raise, we've got one wagon and that wagon is the Supreme Court, and we hitch all the other little donkeys behind it, and as the big donkey gets a little more straw, every other little donkey gets his or her share too. That's the way the system works, and we are talking, Senator Witek, about spending taxpayers money. Judges should not get a free ride, and those who have pride in their work, those who have a sense of professionalism, and who really do see being a judge as an important role to fulfill in this society, they have no fear of an evaluation or review of the work being done by the judiciary. By having a bill for the purpose of increasing his salary, we are not saying that all of the judges are bad people and none of them are doing the job they should do. To bring the bill is not to say...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that they are not worthy of a salary increase. We may differ as to the amount, as will happen a lot of the times, but to say that no bill should be brought is to