

stop moving if the Withem amendment is adopted? Oh, absolutely not. And I assume my... I assume that it is going to pass, but I think sooner or later that what you want to do is that you should have that process. If you are going to try to develop some way of determining priorities in this Legislature, you still have the ability to voice your discontent with the judiciary, Legislatures don't like judges, never have, never will, just isn't going to happen. But what we are talking about here is the process of how do you determine what we ought to spend and what our priorities in spending ought to be. In my count, you ought to give it to the Appropriations Committee. As you all know, I wish I was on the Appropriations Committee. I am very happy that I am not this time of year, but I'm going to vote against the Withem amendment just because I think it is probably better policy...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...to go the other way.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, when your amendment is up being discussed and several people speak, there are a lot of things you want to say in response to that. I am going to try to do... hit as many of those points as I can, and then speak again if I need to. First of all, Senator Robinson made some fairly bombastic remarks here, and I guess he is not around now when there is going to be a response to them, but I find it interesting that this is the senator, who last Friday, last Thursday, was so concerned about spending that we ought to bracket the overall budget bill. Yet, there, and my figures are that this pay raise for judges will cost about a million dollars a year, is that close, Senator Wehrbein? About a million dollars year, yet that million dollars isn't important enough to have a policy debate and discussion about. The second point I guess I would make regarding what Senator Kristensen had to say, I don't know if anybody used the term slip by the Legislature or not. I wouldn't use that terminology, but I would guess, Senator Kristensen, if you and I took an honest survey of our 47 colleagues in here and had asked them as of a week ago what the status of the judges pay raise was for this session, my guess is there would be very few senators that would have been aware at that time that there was a judges pay raise contained within the appropriations bill. I think that's the issue we're