

a higher priority than giving the judges a salary increase, apparently?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, yes, at the point, well, I can't remember. I was going to say at that point I don't know whether it was out of committee, but I can't really remember if that is true or not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein and I are having a little tension and contention this morning, and I just want to put some things in perspective. He can be upset at what I say. He can be offended at what I say because that's a part of the process, and I'm often upset and offended by a lot of things that happen on the floor of the Legislature, but those things energize me and I just continue to push. That's what we've got to do, keep chopping that lumber. Senator Wehrbein and every member of this Legislature, we have an obligation and a responsibility to oversee what is being done by the judicial branch. Nobody else looks at it. See, to you all, you are not concerned because we can't get a black district judge. Never has been one. And that doesn't bother you all. There are discrepancies in the way black people are treated by the judicial system and that doesn't bother you all because it doesn't pertain to you, and if I don't even raise the issue, it's never discussed and never approached, and you are offended because I say I think these judges ought to be held to account that they are not a higher category of human being than the rest of us. Senator Kristensen was concerned about my being a partner with him because maybe, in final argument, I might call the judge a bootlicker or something like that. My percentage of winning cases in the Supreme Court is better than that of most lawyers in this state. I have also won cases at lower level...I have won cases in Plattsmouth, Nebraska. I won a decision from a judge named Walsh, I think that was his name, in Sarpy County. He was called a right-wing judge, and I won a case in front of him arguing my own case because I read the Constitution, I read the laws, and I understand the form in which I find myself and the rules according to which the game is played there. We're not in a court setting here talking about Your Honor, and may it please the court. We're in the knockdown, drag-out Legislature, where we argue policy changes. We push, we pull, we tug, we give, we take. Some of us fight harder than others, and some of us get our feelings hurt quicker, but every time you put yourself out there for your feelings to get hurt, it means at least you're