

being opposed was appropriate, and I think we...

SENATOR HALL: Excuse me, Senator Wickersham. (Gavel.) Members, could we hold down the conversation so we can hear Senator Wickersham. Thank you.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: That was a gavel, not a hammer, Senator. (Laughter.)

SENATOR HALL: That was a gavel.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: But at any rate, I don't want...I don't think this body ought to have the impression that those proposals weren't brought to you, I think, solely because of the opposition of the Bar Association. Those proposals I don't...personally I don't think were legitimate and would have opposed them with as much vigor and strength as I could have mustered. They were not appropriate policy alternatives that I thought were going to be presented to you. Now, Senator Withem, of course, represents a small portion of the State of Nebraska. He represents a district composed of a little over 32,000 people. The Bar Association is composed of 5,000 member lawyers across the State of Nebraska. It does not have the luxury, as Senator Withem might feel, to represent a much narrower constituency. The needs of the Bar Association are to represent lawyers across the State of Nebraska and to express its views about the use and access to judicial resources. You can disagree with those positions if you want to, but I don't think it's appropriate to criticize the Bar Association for taking a position. In fact most of the time in this body what we do is we seek to find constituent groups that will support, actively support our position and we're always happy about that. I understand when we're disappointed if somebody doesn't support our position, but I don't think they can be criticized on that basis, and I don't think they can be called recalcitrant because simply they don't agree. We're entitled to not agree, and in fact we've spent most of this session not agreeing about one thing or another, and I expect that will continue. I do hope that as the issue of the allocation of judicial resources comes back to this body that we are able to deal with it in a rational fashion. I think the study that is going to be conducted by the court administrator's office and the work that would be done by the Bar Association over the summer will assist us. Those pledges were made, I tend to take people at their words. I did not think hammers were necessary, and I don't think it's