

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I couldn't restrain myself. To have anybody speak a kind word about the Bar Association rubs me the wrong way. The Bar Association, like the NCAA, is not an organization of all the members, it's the hierarchy, it's the lobbyists, it's those good ol' boys who make up the system, they exclude women, they exclude black people, it is one of the most hide-bound, elitist, exclusive, racist, sexist, homophobic organizations in this state. If you look at the constitution a person doesn't have to be a lawyer to be on the Supreme Court. They knew that nonlawyers could better handle the business of the state when it came to having the judicial temperament than lawyers. You don't have to be a lawyer under the constitution to be the Attorney General of this state. But everything the bar can do to tie in control of positions will be done. They put into statute that you had to be a member of the Bar Association to be a judge, so they can control lawyers. They are lawyers first. meaning members of the bar, meaning under the control of the Supreme Court. They come trotting around here and they do have people in this body who carry water for them, and they know it, they stand out there and they oversee what goes on in this Legislature relative to the Bar Association. And money is what they are interested in. Follow the money. Senator Withem stated that when he used the term recalcitrant he was using a nice term and I agree. He said had he not...had he spoken emotionally rather than rationally he would have used some of the terms that I use. No, if Senator Withem had spoken honestly rather than diplomatically he would have used the terms that I use. An interesting thing about words, and this is away from how Senator Withem characterized it, if I lie, if I tell untruths in my dealings with individuals, I am a liar. If I tell lies in an organizational setting, I am a diplomat. But absence of truth is what characterizes the liar and often the words of the diplomat. I don't have any respect for the Bar Association. And if membership was not mandated, all they'd have is a few of these good ol' boys and everyone of them would be an officer. People would desert that organization in droves if it was not necessary to belong in order to practice law. I thought this was a state where you didn't have to belong to a union in order to practice...to make your living. I have tried to get this Legislature to make membership in the bar voluntary, and we have to do it by way of a constitutional amendment because the Supreme Court has arrogated to itself the power to say that you must be a member of this private association before you can practice law. The Bar Association is a private