

was to hire a consultant to do some of the in-depth stuff, determine the economic aspect of things. That kind of work, again, there will be an A bill coming, which would be less than what the Supreme Court is doing, which will...which will allow them access to that type of expertise. Other than that type of expertise, I think LRD is very well equipped. I think they have the people with the different skills that can do that. They're certainly equipped to look at what other states are doing, and I think they can do an excellent job.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One...another thing that comes to my mind is that, unless things have changed, there are a number of fairly well organized groups, several at least, that have a...their members have a well-defined personal interest on what the guidelines are. Based... Have you had any conversations with the Court Administrator's Office as to the amount of external pressure that these groups have brought to them in their role, their past role in developing the guidelines?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes, I have. I should mention the Court Administrator's Office does not, my understanding, they do not object to the bill. As far as the question of input, there has been a lot of, from both sides of the issue, a lot of, what do you call it, pressure or attempts at input or whatever, the problem being that the court, just by its nature, is not equipped to really accept that kind of input.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, well, I was wondering if you felt that Legislative Research was really equipped to handle the type of pressure that may come from this?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Not the input and not the pressure, because the ultimate decision is made by the Legislature.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Is made by...

SENATOR LINDSAY: And we are equipped for that input, through our committee hearing process, and we are used to that type of political pressure.

SENATOR COORDSEN: And you indicated that there will be an A bill coming along with this that will take the sting off so that Legislative Research would be able to...