

SENATOR BROMM: Now the Court Administrator's Office actually carried out the project of establishing these guidelines, as I understand it. And have you discussed with them whether or not they would be willing to have public hearings, perhaps, in the future? I know no reason why they couldn't. Have you had a discussion with them about that?

SENATOR LINDSAY: The Court Administrator's Office does have some limited public hearings, but they're conducted by the Court Administrator's Office, and yet the court is the one that makes the decision, so the court doesn't hear that public input. It's...it's...I mean the court itself, and I think you and I would agree, having the seven Supreme Court judges sitting for public hearings on this is not an effective use of judicial time.

SENATOR BROMM: But doesn't the...didn't the Supreme Court implement the recommendations of the Court Administrator on the guidelines?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Right, but that Court Administrator then, I mean that...they are not accountable, I mean there's no way...

SENATOR BROMM: Right, I understand. I mean they aren't elected and that kind of thing. However, I guess, and you touched on this a little bit with Senator Coordsen, but I question if we have the expertise in house to undertake this kind of thing in the time frame that you have envisioned here. Has that been discussed with the Legislative Research Division?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yeah, I talked to Cynthia Howard, she...she is...when I talked to her, was not completely comfortable with it, simply from a lack of knowledge. She hadn't gone as in-depth on it because it was...the bill hadn't moved very far. But she...but it does...we are (interrupted)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...sources, that being the ability to hire a consultant, so they would have the same resource that the Supreme Court would do. I think LRD, just by its nature of research, would be better equipped than would the Court Administrator's Office, which is inherently administrative.