

time to prepare, less time to write opinions, and that sooner or later if we don't do some of these sorts of things, the backlog will grow even further. Now maybe that's okay. Maybe you like delays in opinions. For the most part, this state does not want to do that. And it's an easy forum to come up and complain about the courts and it's easy to come and complain about rulings and opinions and all those things. I don't like some of the rulings. Some of them are nonsensical to me as well. I don't sit there. I don't get a chance to make the rulings. And I'm sure they think some of the laws that we passed don't make a lot of sense either. But the budget decisions that the Appropriations Committee made was primarily to keep the Court of Appeals running at the level it's at today in order to address the increasing numbers and the backlog that's going to occur. It's a small investment to keep those two law clerks, keep that staff attorney...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..and somebody like me won't be in this year, which I had really contemplated in doing, to come in and put at least one to three more judges in that court to address the workload and do it right, the way we should have done it a few years ago but because of money did not do it. And so I...the article that you handed out has little or nothing to do with the funding. The ruling by the Supreme Court on whether the Court of Appeals has any precedential value is a matter of separation of powers. Now we can give our intent that those things should have some force and impact, but, quite frankly, it probably won't. And so I rise to strenuously object to doing this. You can probably cut the money. The trouble is it's going to cost you more in the very near future in terms of putting in actually more judges, more law clerks. This equalizes their staff power and gives them two law clerks per judge, similar to what's in the Supreme Court, and they're working at really a very difficult pace now. If you don't do this...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..it will get even worse.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wesely announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature