

so it was somewhat of a blow, I think, to those who supported setting up the system. The long-range effects of it will be that people will...will be more inclined to appeal cases. Even though there's been an adverse ruling at the appellate court level, they will be inclined to appeal that case to the Supreme Court because that adverse decision that may have occurred in the appellate court really doesn't mean anything. It's really not binding. It has no precedent-setting value, so the long-range effect is going to be that we're going to again see a backlog of cases develop probably at the Supreme Court level, and we will be...have somewhat watered down the dollars that we have spent on a Court of Appeals system. We may as well...we may have well just have spent the money to create another parallel Supreme Court system so that we would double the number of Supreme Court judges, and do away with the appellate court system. If that's...if that's the best way to spend our dollars, then that's what we may wind up having to do. The effect of this amendment is questionable. Whether or not the Supreme Court will follow it or whether or not they will feel that it is infringing upon their branch of government, I don't know what the result might be, but I certainly support the intent of the amendment. I think if we're going to continue to ask the citizens to pump more dollars into the court system, that we've got to have a court system that's responsive to the extent that we mete out justice as efficiently and as fluidly as we can, and this decision is a blow in the face of efficiency and the effectiveness of our court system. So it's worth...certainly I think it's worth our time and our effort to try, and we won't know the effect of it for some time. But with that in mind, I do support Senator Lindsay's amendment and I appreciate him filing it. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I also support the Lindsay amendment; in fact, I cosigned it with him. The Court of Appeals has been a very successful experience in judicial administration in this state. I've had cases before the Court of Appeals. They do an excellent judicial job. We have very fine personnel, eminently qualified, on the Court of Appeals. Their decisions certainly should be acknowledged as guidelines or precedents for other courts in this state. If they aren't, we're not spending our money properly. The