

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. I think that maybe Senator Witek was clairvoyant this morning by using the north mike, if she could respond to a question for me.

SENATOR WITEK: That's just because you hog all the space over there, Senator. (Laughter)

SENATOR MAURSTAD: We don't want to air out our dirty laundry here. Senator, you mentioned in your testimony that it's your feeling that there would be an enormous expense involved with proceeding in the way that 343 indicates. Are you able to quantify what "enormous" means in this particular situation? Has Clatterbuck provided you with some information or have you done some research on what an enormous amount would be?

SENATOR WILL: Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: I asked during the hearing on how much it would be and I tried to get...like over a million. What the expense that would be incurred here is if each one of these cases had to be litigated individually, you would have 600 people going to court, so the courtroom expense of that, and the state would have to go each time.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, so then what you're saying is you don't have a number, that...

SENATOR WITEK: Well,...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...it is just a lot from your perspective.

SENATOR WITEK: That's a lot, I guess you could just kind of think.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay. Then you also mentioned something about the people affected don't want us to go forward. Is that a unanimous sentiment of the people that are affected?

SENATOR WITEK: It was unanimous of all the individuals involved in this issue that appeared before the committee and all the letters that I have received.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, so it's unanimous of the people that were there and the correspondence that you received, but it