

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

February 12, 1999 LB 350

people, we will not get good people. It's important. As you've already been told, and I'm not going to take you through that again, where we stand and what we pay our judicial in this state anyway. I applaud Senator Brashear and Senator Chambers and all those who worked on this bill, and the Judiciary Committee for putting it out, which I am a part of. And I hope that you will advance this bill and give it the consideration necessary. We need to spend our money in this area as much as we do on building more prisons and hiring more police officers and the entire, whole gambit of criminal justice. With that, any time that I have remaining I would give to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized for about two and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Pedersen, and thank you, Mr. President. The Chief Justice has already taken steps to improve the administration of justice. Because I don't want to take a long time to get into that particular area, there have been changes in the Code of Judicial Responsibility relative to harassment, discrimination, other areas of misconduct by judges which were kind of in a grey area. The Chief Justice has spearheaded making changes in the rules, so now we don't have to speculate and wonder about how you're going to establish, through argument, that a judge's conduct is wrong. You can go to the code that every judge is bound to obey and conform his or her conduct to. In addition to that, the Bar Association and its role in the disciplining of lawyers is under study and review right now. There is even consideration that will be given, based on my discussions with the Chief Justice, of taking the office of the Council for Discipline out of the office building of the Bar Association, because there can appear to the public, and this is my argument, that there is too close a tie between the arm which is to review the conduct of lawyers and recommend discipline, should it be necessary,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and the organization of the lawyers. So there are things being done now which had not been done by prior judicial administrations. The Chief Justice, under the constitution, well, I'll wait. Maybe I'll get a chance to