

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

January 10, 2000

Judiciary Committee is perceived and some of those issues. This summer, as I do during interims, I spent some time visiting with some of the leadership in my community on a variety of issues. And I was surprised that a couple of those community leaders brought up to me concern about Judiciary, and they felt that they were rushed, they didn't have an opportunity to adequately state, and they're only driving for an hour to get there. So I can imagine those of you with districts throughout the state, where people do come in to provide their input, how frustrated they must feel, if those people in a closer range are as frustrated, not so much about the drive, but about the ability to be heard. I sit on the Health and Human Services Committee. Our hearings last a very, very long time on some issues, because a lot of people have a lot of things they want to say, particularly on health issues in our state. And the same type of courtesy needs to be extended to those who have an interest in judicial issues. As a member of the Rules Committee, we could have said...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...we know this will be difficult and maybe the body shouldn't spend this time on it. But this is an institutional problem that we have, we don't have enough time to be given by the Judiciary Committee for these bills. We're looking at it structurally, what works best, and attempt to merge committees that have lower workloads and fewer bills that can work effectively. And I hope you will support this package. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Schrock, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, since lunch time I've heard Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers talk about all these trash bills going to the Judiciary Committee. Well, maybe we have a referencing problem, because last time I checked the Natural Resources Committee is supposed to deal with litter and recycling. And it appears to me like the trash bills ought to go to the Natural Resources Committee. With that brief attempt at levity, I would give the rest of my time to Senator Janssen.