

April 5, 1984

LR 235

things we have to consider. Do the judges not want the public to be aware of how they judge their fellows or do they want the public to be unaware of the fact that they might cover up for one of their fellows? In any case, there are serious enough questions to justify the removal of the cloak of secrecy from these considerations. So despite the fact that the judges, in trying to be cagey and politically sophisticated, decided not to challenge this bill on Select where there could be a thorough discussion of any issues they would raise and a dealing with any issues they would raise, they decided to wait until Final Reading, try to have their friends and others twist arms, use an appeal to friendship and say, for my sake, don't vote for LR 235 and try to deflect your attention from the merits of the issue. The fact that the bill has gotten to where it is with the strong support that it has indicates a belief by the Legislature as a whole that there is merit to this proposition. If it does not get sufficient votes today, it will not be because the merits have been in any way diminished. It will mean that the judges have used a method of lobbying which was imminently successful. Those of you who believed that the bill was correct on General and Select should stay with the bill now. You are not going to destroy the judiciary. You are not going to impair the efficiency of the operation of it. If a judge properly discharges his duties, if he behaves, he will not even be subject to any of the provisions of this bill because there will be no need for him to be disciplined or face the possibility of it. On the other hand, if he or she be falsely accused, there will be public exoneration. The judges can only win by the breath of fresh air that LR 235 will bring.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Go ahead.

PRESIDENT: There are others that have asked to speak on the motion. Do you want to withdraw it, Senator?

SENATOR WESELY: Let me withdraw it, save time.

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