

that all the people who meet the qualifications have their names submitted instead of that commission being able to pick and choose and do as I said, stack the deck so you have only one person who, under scrutiny, could be considered qualified, meaning that they have selected the person to be the judge, and the Governor is going to have nine opportunities. And you tell me that you don't believe there are going to be some political debts paid off under this system. We need to look at all of this. There are defects in the present system of selecting judges which everybody can recognize, and none of those are being corrected at a time when we're going to create, by law, the opportunity to appoint the largest number of judges at one fell swoop that has ever existed in the history of this state. And that's not even being considered. It's not even a matter of concern. The only thing this body is interested in this morning is to be in a hurry to get this bill advanced from General File. But I want the record, such as it is, to reflect the efforts that I put forth, not only to try to slow down this bill, but to preserve some of the rights that people had under the Constitution prior to this whole effort being undertaken. This is a judges' and a lawyers' bill. It's not a bill to benefit the public. They are never taken into consideration but by building in an additional layer of litigation, the lawyers will make more money. The public will be put to greater expense. There are people who are going to have to give up certain appealable matters because they cannot afford that fourth layer. They may have a case of sufficient import to be appealable from that appellate court. But having expended their money, going through county court if it started there, District Court from the county court...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then to the appellate court, they're not going to have money. Even if they have a matter worthy of appeal, they cannot afford it. So there is another means by which the workload of the Supreme Court can be cut down. Erect a financial barrier that cannot be surmounted by the ordinary citizen. The courts were created originally so that the doors would be open to the common people. Now only the uncommon will have access to the courts and the Legislature is going to feel that it did a great thing. Sometimes by creating a system which is designed to produce what is called efficiency, we run roughshod over justice which is to be the ultimate goal and purpose of that system. This amendment that I'm offering is