

and not another de novo review at that point in time. Thank you for those answers. I would support the Coordsen amendment. I certainly think that this places it in the procedural pattern and it is consistent with the Court of Appeals and consistent with the review of the Supreme Court to do that. There are other ways that this could have been done. You could have dumped those appeals straight into the Court of Appeals, increasing that backlog and really taking away from what we had done last year. You could have made the review at the district court level which would have changed the method in which the court operates and lower it down to the status of perhaps a county court. I think what Senator Coordsen has worked out here is good and it is certainly in the scheme and consistent with our system of justice and I would support the amendment. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Coordsen, yours is the only light on. Do you want to use this for your closing?

**SENATOR COORDSEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I will use it for closing. I would thank Senator Kristensen for his comments. One of the major problems in the current system is that the rehearing is done de novo or it's all over again, if I may use my kind of language, Senator Kristensen, within the Workers' Compensation Court system. There were a number of discussions as to what the best process might have been. Early on there was an idea that Workers' Compensation Court issues should be heard only once in the Workers' Compensation Court, thereby freeing up all of the judges to conduct the one-judge trial, if you would, on the record within the court and then it would be appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court or to a district court. It was my feeling and generally agreed to and finally completely agreed to by all of the parties concerned that given the nature and complexity of Workers' Compensation Court and they are and it is a specialty in law, those that practice in it tend to specialize in that area and those that must make the decisions must necessarily specialize in that area, that to move a Workers' Compensation Court case directly from a one-judge to a district court was, in fact, not progressing at all, but rather moving it to a court that because of the wide variety of cases that a district court judge must be conversant on, it would not generally lead perhaps to the best of decisions. So we created then a three-judge appeal panel with a new mission, keeping those judges within the court system where they are as