

COMMITTEE for Petition Rights (CPR)

Greg Wasson, Executive Secretary

Justice Thomas McBride – who helped write the Initiative Amendment – still sat on Oregon’s High Court in 1928. That Court announced that the Initiative Amendment simply divided the legislative branch in half.

“* * * neither the *executive branch* nor the *judicial branch* has the authority to say to either of the legislative branches * * *

“The law you are proposing to enact is unconstitutional and because it is you cannot determine for yourself whether the same shall be enacted into law or not.”¹ (emphasis mine).

The 1950 and 2006 Courts adopted this teaching as their own.

From *Johnson et al. v. Pendleton et al.*, a 1929 decision:

"* * *. Acts of parliament derogatory from the power of subsequent parliaments, bind not. (cite omitted).

“ * * * *There can be no difference in the rule whether (the statute comes) by popular vote or by act of the legislature itself*”² (emphasis mine).

¹ *State ex rel. v. Kozier*, 126 Or 641, 649 (1928), *followed*, *State ex rel. v. Newbry*, 189 Or 691, 696-98 (1950); *Meyer v. Bradbury*, 341 Or 288, 300 (2006).

² *Johnson et al. v. Pendleton et al.*, 131 Or 46, 56, 280 P 873 (1929).