

SENATOR CONWAY: ...which drastically alters my original intent. The original intent was by following through the...or following through the statutes that allow the Exec Board to sequester individuals, to bring people in, we could keep it within the legislative body. Once we've gone with the gubernatorial appointments for half of it and the other half for the...coming out of the Exec Board, we no longer have the ability to really require anyone to come in and testify. Most of the individuals that people want to have on that committee basically are the kinds of people that probably should be coming and testifying to us, not sitting there making various rulings and judgements, and trying to cobble up the process as we go through. But, at any rate, I went ahead and met with Senator Scofield and we talked about the six and six process. I said I would be very willing to go that far. I think it cobbles it up. But if we simply adopt LR 337, the Landis resolution, into mine, then there are some other concerns that I have, such as the holding of public hearings, the progress statement that is made in Section 6 of his resolution. So, in essence, this second half of this amendment that we separated was additional language that I put in. I met with Senator Landis. He didn't like it, and so, therefore, in the spirit of compromise apparently that broke down at that point. I still believe that the Exec Board should have total control over the appointments. Again, I don't think that the individuals, if they were securing the kinds of information we are talking about, need to have a so-called fair and balanced process. But I was willing to go along with that. Now we are down to the point when, in essence, if you don't adopt this side of this amendment, we are adopting and really discussing LR 337 and not LR 335. So I would strongly support at least that this much additional language is put in to make it very clear that this is a task force that is going to work between now and March 15th for the purpose of bringing real information. It really has little or no meaning at this point, I think, to go stomping around the state, picking up additional emotional input from individuals. We had that during LR 16. That information is available to us. What we are looking for now are facts. So I would strongly support the adoption of the additional points on the Scofield amendment. Without that adoption, then I probably will not support LR 337 at all and go back to LR 335 in its original state.

SPEAKER NICHOL: May I introduce some guests, please, in the