

it so far and we have heard that notion, you know, you got...this function is too important to have it be involved with politics. You got to take the politics out of this. Well, if there weren't any public money involved, maybe you could take the politics out of it, but unless there is not dollar one of public money, politics is involved, and all you have done is to create a less accountable form of politics, one that the voter doesn't get to share in, but one in which you have to remember the industry or the right persons or the list of contributors, or whomever, that they draw that group of decision makers from. I, for one, take great offense at that notion you got to take the politics out of this, you got to take the politics out of that. You know those politicians can't be trusted. I know they are elected by the people to their job. I know they have to go back every four years and get the permission of the public to be here. I know they have to answer each and every day the inquiries from the press, and they have to stand up in public and say all of their words into a tape machine so those words can later be read. I know that they don't have the same sense of privacy as everyone else, but something about politicians makes them not appropriate to make these big decisions. That is hogwash. The more important an issue is the more it deserves to be dragged kicking and screaming into the public arena and to allow it to get kicked around in here where we know what the pattern is, where we know that it will be done in public, where we know that the public will be able to watch what we do, have it recorded, and can be observed at any time, and where every citizen in this state has an equal share in sending the representatives down here. You can't take the politics out of public policy. Public policy issues are politics and all we do is hand the political decisions to a tighter, smaller group who have a shared interest, a shared background, a shared outlook, and for the sake, I think, of expertise, we do so. This is a great error. It is an unwise error because it confuses expertise which is purchasable, which you can go out and find in the classified want-ad section of a newspaper, with political accountability, which is only ensured by a close proximate relationship to the electoral process.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: The public hearing format, the bill drafting and passing format, the floor of the Legislature