

finish line and when these who had the 80 yard advantage get to what has been called the finish line first, then Senator Landis says they've discharged their responsibility and I'll work with them. These who are disadvantaged from the beginning are not given the consideration that those who are favored have already been given. We all as politicians understand organization and mobilization of lobbying forces. We know which groups have that capability and which ones don't. Senator Landis has supported public defender issues, legal aid issues and others that relate to groups who need help, but don't know how to go about getting it for themselves. When you have greater knowledge than somebody else, you're not being paternalistic to make use of that knowledge to bring equity to a system. What we are doing with my amendment is not telling a Native American what ought to be important to him or her. We're not telling a Chicano what is essential to him or her. We are saying that we have a governmental structure and within that structure we have set aside a commission to represent the interest of favored people. So it's only equitable in that governmental structure to give the same voice and opportunity to those groups who need it even more. Women make up a numerical majority of the population. Yet they were given this help. These two groups are numerical minorities. They do not enjoy high social status in this state and we all know it. To stand here when we're facing the reality and pretend that the reality is other than what it is, is unconscionable and inexcusable. There are people who would be from the groups that these amendments deal with who have talked to me. Others of you have come and told me that they have talked to you. So maybe they select the senators that they think will not shut a door on them or treat them with rudeness. Despite all of that...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...there are certain obligations, I think, that we have as a Legislature, once we have established a policy, and I think the policy statement was made when we restored funds to the women's commission. I'm hoping that you will see the justice of what is being proposed here. Maybe the amount of money is only symbolic in terms of what is actually needed, but we should not turn the clock back on these people as the clock has been turned back at the national level on so many other groups.