

Senator Landis, excuse me. I'm sorry. To close.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, you all don't like this amendment very much. I can tell that right off. However, I'm going to stand here for the purpose of explaining what I think is a logical rationale. I, too, can sense that there may well be difficulties with the underlying bill itself and what is being accomplished. There is clearly some strategic value for both sides as far as how you treat the Commission on the Status of Women. If you want to save the other commissions, you want them in because that broadens your base and your lobbying forces. If you want to do in these, you don't want to appear to be singling out some groups, but in fact, you want to raise the entire superstructures of advocacy commissions and get all three at one time and so this little amendment winds up being some place in the middle and apparently a middle without a rationale, if you listen to either of the opponents who want to do away with all three or the opponents who want to save all three. I would suggest to you that there is a rationale that distinguishes here and it's a logical one and a fair one. That doesn't mean that you don't want to then to apply those same tests to the underlying bill, but I, too, would agree there is no policy distinction, no policy distinction, between the three commissions. They are advocacy commissions for groups who have suffered historically from practices of discrimination. However, I think its very telling when Senator Chambers says these groups that haven't come down here can't come down here and this body needs to reach out and have, in essence, to divine the intention of those groups. That simply factually isn't true. We yet this session have seen that when Native American's interests were embroiled in the retrocession issue, when they felt justice was being denied, they were here and in force. We were lobbied, we saw their presence, I met with them, you did too. Don't tell me that they can't come here. They can and have. The question is, why haven't they? There the question may be because they don't see the same level of commitment to justice in the continuation of this commission that they do in retrocession. I don't know. But I not sure I'm going to necessarily say that I know what is just for them and impose my sense of justice on them. Secondly, with respect to Mexican-Americans, I sat on the Business and Labor Committee and heard illegal alien bills and the sense of justice of Mexican-Americans in this state is clearly triggered by that