

issue and those committee rooms were filled with angry indignant people and the committees responded. You can't say that they cannot come down here. They just sometimes choose not to come down here. It is as possible that they don't see the commissions as being truly representative as being instruments of obtaining justice as it is that they simply don't want to take the time off work or have the lobbying network or whatever. I know that those groups have come here and lobbied effectively. They lobbied me effectively in the past. A committee is there to sift through a body of evidence and on the day that we heard 1089 that room was filled with people listing the accomplishments of one of the three commissions and demanding justice and saying that justice was in part the continuation of that commission.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: When it came time to talk about the other two commissions there was no one there to say this is our share of justice and we demand it, it is our right, there is a list of accomplishments of this commission that has meant a great deal to our community and we expect fair treatment. I was ready to hear that testimony. I continue to be ready to hear that testimony, but I think it is reasonable for a committee in a public hearing to distinguish between the factual cases made in which groups say these are our advocates, they do a good job, we want them to continue and that message was told us only in one case. The committee responded reflecting that kind of body of evidence. Now, whether you want to impose your sense of justice or believe it's just to have all three commissions, fine. I may well join you in that, but don't criticize the committee for sifting through that body of evidence...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and saying in essence, we will respond to a case well made and do that and then simply leave the matter lie for the rest of us to make the underlying policy choice. It's not the fault of the committee amendment that we stand in this stead. I don't expect the committee amendment to be upheld, but I think the committee was trying to perform as best it could the very task you mean for committees to perform and that is the weighing and sifting of evidence and making rational distinctions where those