

individuals should file claims, individually, like these two people, and have their claims stand on their own two feet and be judged good claims or poor claims. That is what the issue is. That is what the issue is. The other 25 people involved will have the right to file their individual claims and then those claims will go before the Claims Board and before the Business and Labor Committee and at that time, if they are judged to be valid claims, then I'll vote to pay them. I cannot vote today to put some money in escrow when the case is in the courts and we don't know whether the money is ever going to be used or not. The money could just sit there, and sit there, and sit there unless this body takes it back. And I feel this is wrong. These people will receive their money if their claims are valid, just like anybody else. And so, Senator Higgins, I would ask you to not support the committee amendment, and for one other reason, Senator Higgins, there was no public hearing held on this issue, no public hearing held on the committee amendments. So we do not have the input of the pros and the cons, because the bill has been gutted. And when you come before this body and you gut a bill and you don't have all the pros and all of the cons, then I think you have a problem. So I would suggest and ask you to not support the committee amendments. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, then Senator Miller.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President, fellow senators. I've been listening to this debate and it has kind of intrigued me. I have a couple of comments to make. It seems to me that as lawyers one of the things that I've always tried to practice is to resolve matters without going to litigation, that litigation is used as a last resort in any particular case. And I even have a quote that my aide just gave to me, and I'd like to read it. It's from Abraham Lincoln, who was a lawyer at one time. He said, discourage litigation, persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can. Point out to them how the nominal winner is often a real loser in fees, expenses and waste of time. As a peacemaker the lawyer has a superior opportunity to be a good man, there will still be business enough. It seems to me that what is being proposed in this body, through the committee amendments, is a resolution of the problem. It is not a lawyer but the Legislature stepping in and being a peacemaker to resolve this litigation. And I think you should look at the particular situation. And I don't think you should ultimately see a court case as the final determination of something that we