

are there are overworked and underpaid and furthermore there is a high turnover in the state department in trying to supervise and follow and allocate these children to particularly caring homes. I think it is important to remember that the function of the committee is not a criminal investigation. I know that the press and sometimes reports are made which suggest that this committee is really like to investigate for crimes. That is not their specific function. The really...the purpose of the committee is to investigate and see if we can change the legislation, change the laws that would help prevent this type of problem in the future and I think that there are some laws and that things need to be changed within the state agencies of our government to try to make sure that these kind of problems do not occur again. If, in the course of those investigations, the committee uncovers criminal conduct, then, of course, it becomes their duty to submit that information to the appropriate authorities and I think the committee can do that. I just think that it is a good process. My resignation was not prompted because of the purpose of the committee or the goals of the committee, my resignation was prompted because I thought the initial legal counsel and investigator were doing an adequate job, actually doing a very competent job and that their efforts were not appreciated as they should have been. Nevertheless, I think it is important to continue the investigation. I think that the members of the committee are...that remain there, are dedicated to investigating all of the allegations and I can tell you from reading those reports, there were plenty of allegations and there were reports of numerous incidents that occurred. None of them could be absolutely verified. Some of the reports were inconsistent and some were outright contradictory, but my view after reading all those was there were too many consistencies, there were too many reports from different sources that were similar that suggested that there was really a significant problem here with the child abuse and how the children were shifted from one home to another and how they were not supervised and how the caseworkers were not able...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: ...because of their staffing and because of time limitations and whatever to do a proper job in their supervision of the children and monitoring of those children and how those homes were being administered. So I would recommend that the body pass the resolution, appropriate the money and let the investigative work continue, and I would hope that the