

identifying that, but when we have even a few of those children slip through the system...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...even a few children have problems not pursued by caseworkers. When even a few children have their cases dropped by county attorneys and not pursued when justice is not brought to bear on these individuals, then that is a few too many cases for me to tolerate and I think in this particular instance, what we're doing is looking at a special case but it has application across the board and I, for one, plan to utilize the work of the committee in the other types of legislation that is coming before this Legislature and hopefully reform the system so we never have a repeat of this or other cases like it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please, followed by Senator Landis and Senator Warner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have some comments that I think I need to put into the record because I was one of the original members of the committee. I very strongly supported the establishment, organization and work of that committee. However, when an interim report had been offered by committee staff, Senator Schmit added an addendum which indicated very definitely that he intended to change the direction of the committee. His addendum had stated on page 1 that he felt that it is, "most important I make it clear as Chairman where I intend to study to direct its efforts in the future." Then on page 2 of his addendum, at the bottom, are these words: "The best advice I have obtained from people far more knowledgeable about investigating this type of activity than I, suggest the most important trail to follow is the trail of the money, find where the money went and you will find hanging on the limbs of those expenditures the individuals involved and the improprieties involved, if any." Going to the top of page 3, "This is my intent to clearly direct committee staff to follow the trail of the money." Because I have such strong feelings about child abuse and the kinds of allegations that had been made, some of which contrary to Senator Schmit's comment in his addendum that none had been corroborated or verified, I felt some had been. There were polygraph tests by the State Patrol which indicated that the individual speaking had told the truth. So to make a public declaration that none of the allegations had been substantiated followed by editorial