

need to do something about that, but then ignore the rest of the apple. This bill is one that deals with the apple, the apple being the Constitution. The Constitution embodies basic rights of the citizens which are to be placed beyond the reach of the Legislature. Senators will offer bills of the kind that Senator Landis is offering, and I think it's meritorious, as I think other bills that senators have offered are meritorious. But sometimes there is a straining at a gnat while a camel is swallowed, and that's the way I see the Legislature operating this session. Many gnats are before us and there's a great amount of straining at or upon many of them. But when we come to the camel, which is the Constitution, that carries the laws of this state and the rights and guarantees of those rights of citizens, we turn away and don't pay attention to it. Aesop gave a fable, and he talked about a bull and a gnat, and the bull was exalting in his great strength, now I might be telling it a little differently than Aesop told it...than he's reputed to have told it, and he was, the bull that is, was of the opinion that nobody could stand before his power. So a gnat listened to this as long as he could, then he told the bull that he would challenge him to a confrontation, and, naturally, the bull laughed uproariously and thought this was the most ridiculous thing he had ever heard. So the gnat flew in on the bull and stung him on the nose. The bull shook and couldn't get the gnat off his nose. The gnat then removed himself from the nose when the bull rubbed it in the ground, and as soon as the bull raised his head the gnat stung him on the nose again. And he kept doing this until finally the bull was so furious he ran into a wall to crush the gnat, and naturally the gnat escaped, but the bull was rendered unconscious. The Legislature, in a sense, is fighting at all of these gnats that sting the nose, that can do no basic harm or substantive damage to the body politic. Then when we get to that which is of great substance, the Legislature, in my opinion, abdicates its responsibility. To even suggest by a formal vote of the Legislature that rights guaranteed by the Constitution to the citizens of this state should be withdrawn is irresponsible. The court, as I've said before, is presenting to the Legislature a proposal that will make its work easier, less onerous. But government does not exist for the convenience of those who have jobs in government. It does not exist for the convenience and well-being of bureaucrats. It does not even exist for the convenience of elected officials. Those in government are stewards, they are stewards whose responsibility it is to see after the best interests of the public. When the Constitution provides a