

or of their political philosophy. I'd like to just question a couple of things that have been discussed in the debate and bring your attention to them. The first thing is the assertion that there was some kind of disagreement that came out of the Labor...Business and Labor Committee is somehow kind of "sacrosanct" and that once some kind of compromise occurs between interested parties who are before that committee that that is not subject to change in the Legislature. And who are we, as mere state senators, to express a different view than what the interest groups before that committee agree to? That has always bothered me in this Legislature. I don't think that we, as a legislative body, should feel bound by any kind of particular agreement between parties. I even remember Senator Landis talking about his aspiration to be Banking Committee Chairman, and he said one of the things that he wanted to address was that a lot of Banking Committee bills came out, and the parties before that committee had signed off on them and said that they were acceptable, and so the Legislature approved them, only to discover later that these bills weren't good for the citizens of our state as a whole. Seems we have a responsibility to act independently of interest groups in the Legislature. Certainly they can bring their points of view to bear, certainly we should be aware of them, certainly we should consider them, certainly they are sometimes...the interest groups are in the best position to understand the issues and can provide information or perspectives that we may not consider. But when competing interest groups decide and resolve something that shouldn't mean that we just unilaterally adopt it and say, okay, we're just here as kind of a perfunctory body to approve whatever you've agreed to. That's not how the system should work. We should be independent of it, we should be concerned with people that come before this Legislature, but we should, in the final analysis, make the decision on our own independent judgment on what's best for our entire state as a whole. One thing that troubles me about the agreement, and I don't know how often it happens in here, this was my bill, I presented it two years ago to the committee. These negotiations took place and I was never a part of them. I never heard what was going on as far as figures or dollar amounts or anything like that. The only communication I got from the committee was once, as I recall last year, the first communication I got was, well, either the unemployment bill is going to come out, or the worker's comp bill is going to come out in '89, and then the other bill will be considered in 1990 so that we have kind of a staggered situation where we increase worker's comp benefits one