

Legislature has been criticized, the committee has been criticized, and individual members of the committee have been criticized because of the work of the committee. I do not believe that today there is a single person in Nebraska who does not believe that the situation that has unraveled would ever have taken place had it not been for the work of the committee as sanctioned and supported by this Legislature. I believe it demonstrates, once again, that the Legislature is the final voice of the people and the closest to the people of all other branches of government. I really do not know what will be the final outcome of the results of this investigation. I want to say that I share very deeply the concerns expressed by Senator Chambers that this might not be the highest priority of certain individuals. We have a never ending series of alibis and excuses as to why certain events did not take place. I find it almost unbelievable that allegations of the criminal sexual abuse of children can go uninvestigated and certainly unpunished for years and years at a time. I find it as we watch what has happened, I find it almost impossible to believe the trauma that children and others are put through when they have to go through officials and tell their story, and then find that story to be challenged time, after time, after time. This Legislature, I believe Senator Pirsch brought to this Legislature a bill which was passed into law which said that you can prosecute a sexual offender of a child on the uncorroborated word of a child, uncorroborated word of a child. We recognize the danger in that, and it was discussed at some length on this floor. We understand that children sometimes might not be the best witnesses. But this Legislature chose to pass that bill, yet the committee has developed witness, after witness, after witness who have testified to sexual abuse and there continues to be investigation, after investigation, after investigation of the...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...voracity and authenticity of the victim witnesses. I do not know how much investigation has been perpetrated or has taken place relative to the alleged abusers, I do not know that. I would hope there has been investigation there also. Ladies and gentlemen, I, as Bernice has said, would like to see...to let this entire body see the evidence that has been accumulated thus far. Evidence continues to unfold on a daily basis. Without exception, not a day goes by that we do not, one or more of us, receive information relative to the