

aware that just by passing legislation isn't going to rectify all the harms that have been caused in the Franklin situation, nor is it necessarily going to assure that all of these type offenses are always going to be prosecuted and investigated properly. My concern has been that these, these alleged offenses have been committed so far in the past it is really difficult to research and to get evidence and to refresh people's memories and get the documentation and necessary supporting evidence necessary to efficiently and effectively prosecute all these things. That is my real concern. I don't think we should necessarily expect that legislation is going to cure the problem. What this will do is give the prosecutors the tools to try to address the problem, specifically Franklin, and generally offenses of this nature in the future, and hopefully address a situation that is intolerable in our state. And I think the Judiciary Committee did a good job. We were aided by our legal counsel on the Judiciary Committee who did yeoman's work in preparing it. I think the committee amendments are good amendments, and I would urge they be adopted.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Chambers, I certainly hope that this time you're wrong. I don't personally know Judge Van Pelt, but I want the members of the Legislature to know that when I leave the floor and I get excused for two, three hours, I'm not sitting in my office gossiping on the telephone, I'm locked up in Senator Schmit's office listening to tapes. And in the last two times that I've been down there, Judge Van Pelt has come in and taken at least six volumes each time, exactly the size of these black books that I have in front of me. And I know that he's working, he's trying. Senator Chambers, you're been right so many times in things that you've said on this floor, and that's the reason I put on my light again, to tell you that you frighten me. But whether or not you're right or wrong, you don't mind that I hope and pray that you're wrong this time, because the public pressure out there is so strong that I think that anyone connected to the grand jury, including Judge Van Pelt, is going to do everything they can to bring this system back where it should be. Believe me, the system in the past has failed us miserably. And I only rise now to say, Senator Chambers, you have frightened me, and I hope and pray that you are wrong in what you just said in your five minutes. Maybe you will prove me wrong, but I am hoping that you are wrong.