

says a lot about the lack of importance given to this whole matter by Judge Van Pelt being allowed to run off and do these other things, whatever they are. They should have appointed Dougherty, if they felt that he is the one who knows what to do. The captain of the ship is the last one to go down with the ship, but here is a captain who's jumped ship before the ship's even in trouble in terms of sinking. But his jumping ship may be the very thing that will cause it to sink. Haven't we all talked about the need for public confidence, the restoration of public trust? How is the public going to trust a process where the one, who we've been guaranteed can do the job, is not even on the job? This captain is not asleep at the wheel, he's not even on the ship. And this is a very important time for the grand jury, because Judge Van Pelt said that they're going to be brought up to speed on what has happened thus far. So he has to give direction, he has to help interpret what is being offered,...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and he has to determine, to some extent, exactly what is going to be offered, and he's not there. You hire a watchperson, a watchman, and you come to your facility and the watchman is gone, the guard has left his post, and I'm supposed to take seriously what they're doing? I'm supposed to believe they're taking seriously what we're doing? The Legislature is being made the Ping-Pong ball, we're being toyed with. I don't like the idea of us enacting this kind of special legislation under these circumstances in the first place, but it would be easier for me not to oppose it, if I saw Judge Van Pelt and Buckley seeing that the job is being done that should be, but they're laughing. Van Pelt could be drinking coffee and eating crackers right now somewhere, but one thing is certain, he's not at his post with the grand jury.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members, Senator Chambers makes a very valid point. If this grand jury is anything other than a top priority with Judge Van Pelt, with members of the grand jury, then it is most unfortunate. I do not know how many times question has been raised to me as to the timeliness of the various charges, as to whether or not the statute has run, as to whether or not individuals can be prosecuted, as to whether or