

Legislatures and enact very onerous and unjust oppressive laws to punish women for the wrong that men do.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schimek, please, followed by Senator Landis and Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, I was across the hall when I heard Senator Morrissey's remarks a little while ago and I guess I would like to turn my attention to those remarks because I think that we've been here long enough today to give some thought to his remarks. Senator Morrissey said that perhaps what we ought to do is spend a few less lunch hours going out with the lobbyists and with other of our constituents and perhaps we ought to spend some lunch hours together, sitting down and informally talking about some of the issues and some of the plans, long-range planning that we need to do. One of the things that I have always thought were negative or were...maybe not negative, but a weakness of a Unicameral, nonpartisan Legislature, it's the fact that there's really not an effective means to work out compromise, to set priorities and to make long-range plans. There is no formal means for informal discussion. What happens when we get to an impasse on a bill on the floor? It's up to individual participants to somehow get together in the heat of the moment, maybe even on the floor, maybe without a lot of planning and forethought and realization of all the consequences, work out compromises and amendments to bills that will perhaps enable that bill or that legislation to pass. On this particular issue that we are discussing today, I really believe after hearing the comments of a good number of people, both on and off the floor, that we could maybe have worked this out, that there were people who would have been willing to sit down and work out a compromise on this issue or at least a method of getting this bill on and off the agenda in a more kindly, perhaps in a speedier fashion. I guess what I would like to suggest today is that we begin to look at this organization and at this process by which we make decisions and see if we can't do something about it. I don't know, is it the Rules Committee or who it is that sets these kinds of things in motion and perhaps it takes some kind of a resolution, but I've thought about it a lot. I thought about it with the Appropriations Committee process, frankly, that there is no point in the year which this body gets together and discusses what our priorities should be before the Appropriations Committee even begins discussing and going over all those agency budgets and priorities. Perhaps there's a