

Secondly, we all know that a number of them have...have been...have complained about this because they don't want to have their particular system infringed upon. But, by the same token, it was local election officials that came to the Government Committee saying they needed some changes, they needed some help, that the system wasn't working, that we had 49 different systems of election and not one, that we needed more uniformity, we needed more clarity, and that was the message they gave us. As a matter of fact, in irony, I don't know how many people have mentioned this on the floor yet but it was the Secretary of State, himself, in his neutral testimony, and you know how neutral the Secretary of State is on these things, but in his neutral testimony said, in rebuttal to a bill that Senator Schimek and I had introduced, saying what we really need set up here is a state election commissioner. That's what we need. Now, of course, Allen envisioned that election commissioner as working for him to broaden his empire.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR WITHEM: But he was...he was supporting that. He was supporting an election commissioner. Now, as we all know, the letters have gone out from the Secretary of State's office to local people saying oppose it, not because he's against the concept of an election commissioner but because he's against not having that election commissioner work for him. This bill has had a lot of work on it. We have heard a lot of...a lot of concern from people throughout the state that our election system isn't working properly. This is the mechanism that those of us on the Government Committee who heard the hearings are suggesting to you. Urge you to suspend the rules and then to vote for the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, being confronted by the prestigious firm of Pirsch, Stenberg and Willard, I tremble in my boots to take issue with anything that has been suggested by them. However, when we're fearful and go forth nevertheless that defines courage. So, for the first time in my legislative career, I'm going to display courage. And in the face of great fear, trembling and trepidation I'm going to offer a few very humble and modest opinions. First of all, I'm looking at a letter dated May 16th, signed by Ms. Willard, and Senator Withem asked that some