

party. I wear no man, no woman's...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ... (interruption). I'm free to say and do those things which I believe appropriate. And I think it's appropriate for me to attack the Governor's motives in this regard as he is attacking a commission whose job it is to try, to the extent possible, to rectify some of the discrimination that takes place wholesale, on a broad scale, in this state. Because Senator Witek's approach is straightforward, direct, and honest, I'm going to support her amendment knowing that it's not going to pass. There is not enough honesty in this body to pass her amendment. The failure of it to pass is not based on a sympathy with human rights or for human rights, but a lack of honesty.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Witek amendment. I am one of those lapsed liberals, I think, that Senator Chambers was speaking of. And in an ideal world and if, if this commission worked as I would hope it would, I would defend the notion of the kind of independence that has been written into the law. But as a long time observer, I have to say that it's my impression that the, the work of the commission has not been well managed for a rather long period of time. Not only has the productivity of the, of the commission's work been relatively low, and for a variety of reasons, but the relationship of employees to management has been strained over time. Questionable purchases have been made. We've had managers that have thrown things at employees. We have a number of lawsuits over a period of time between subordinates and superiors. And I had hoped that when there was a significant management change, as we had this last year, that that would be the end of it and we would start a new chapter. But the adversariality between the employees and the management seems to continue. There is a good deal of litigation in the field. I, by the way, am not one of the critics of the commission for reaching the settlement they did with former Director Larry Myers, I thought it was an appropriate end to that situation. That's not one of the places that I fault the commission. But I do think that we have had, for a long period of time, an adversarial relationship of