

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to benefit some white men, we certainly ought to be willing to follow the spirit of the law and help those who are disadvantaged and harmed in this society. Whether a person is physically or mentally disabled, whether a person is elderly and on a fixed income, whether a person is lacking in education and therefore impoverished they get no slack from this Legislature. But now that we come to the aristocrats, everything is going to change. My motion is to strike this money from this bill.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Discussion on the Chambers amendment. Senator Withem, followed by Schimek, Witek, Kristensen, and Chambers.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I was not directly involved in the creation of this commission, but I've...it kind of fell upon me this summer, as one of the members of the commission, to do some of the early organizational work. So I feel a need to stand and just maybe explain to people what happened, then make your own decision on what you want to do with it. Let me explain what happened and where we are now at this point. This Legislature, last year, passed, I believe, Senator Kristensen, unanimously or close to it. There may have been at the end maybe five or six no votes at the tail end, I'm not sure. But overwhelming majority, members of the Legislature agreed with Senator Kristensen's idea to establish a commission to look at the constitution. This happens in our state every generation I guess you would say. The last one was some 15 or 20 years ago. There was a problem, as oftentimes happens in here, with...and Senator Chambers will lead you to believe that this may have been one of the very few times that this ever happens, but quite frequently we go through our budget. I'm sure there's a number of things in this year's budget that are correcting deficiencies in previous years. We did not have an A bill, there should have been an A bill attached with it, however there was money put into the mainline appropriations bill to get this commission started with its work. That was one mistake. Second mistake was a bigger one policywise. Excuse me, could I have a gavel, please?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem.