

will be voting for the Chambers amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, if an error or a blunder is committed in the first instance, that is not a justification to compound the error the following year. This whole thing should have been scrapped when we first came into session and started all over again with everybody who is going to be a representative starting from the same point and not tacked on as an afterthought, a curio, a token, a mascot, or a pet. That's what should have been done. But what most of you don't want to acknowledge is that we're dealing with the untouchables, we're dealing with respectable, respected white men. That's what you don't want to deal with. But if you look at your experience, and I'm going to call your attention to it every time I can to show how things are done in this society, we cut corners. Had there been an A bill, we wouldn't even be here talking about this now. We would have had some fulminating about the absence of proper representation, and that would have been it. But they continue to come back and rub it in my face. You don't feel like anything has been rubbed in your face, 'cause you don't take it as seriously as I do. But for people of my complexion, despite what Senator Witek says, it takes one of us to represent our position. I don't care how well-intentioned she is, or anybody else on that commission, all they can do is say, I feel sorry for you, I commiserate with you, I'm empathetic, I'm sympathetic. If you're falling off the cliff, I'll show how empathetic I am, I'll jump off to fall with you. I say, wait a minute, you don't understand, what I want you to do is stay on top of the cliff, get you a firm foothold and throw me a rope, so you can pull me up. I don't want you getting off the cliff so we both die. That's what happens when well-intentioned people try to solve my problem for me and not listen to me. Maybe it takes a doctor to cure my ailment, but it takes me to tell him where I hurt, or tell her where I hurt and what my symptoms are. And we have people who are going to provide a cure without even knowing the patient. That is a serious defect in the makeup of the commission. But what I'm looking at, with this amendment that I'm offering, is the way we are deviating from our method of providing money for these commissions. Senator Schimek is not here right now, but in talking to her, I asked her, did she have an A bill or seek to get money? She said, no, 'cause she probably wouldn't get it