

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2005

discussion on the confirmation report by Judiciary Committee? Senator Foley, you're recognized.

SENATOR FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I sit on the Judiciary Committee, as you know, and the issue before us is the confirmation of a member of the Crime Reparations Committee (sic). And I didn't have great familiarity with that committee, so when this gentleman came before us for his confirmation, I started asking him some questions about the nature of their work and learned, much to my dismay, that we have a process in place where victims of crime can come forward and request some financial assistance from the assailant, from the person who committed the crime against them, and this person sits on the committee to adjudicate these requests. And I think it is just a horrible injustice that we are putting the victims of crime through this reparations committee process when there's not a dime of money in the fund to give them anything. People go through this entire process, bare their souls to the committee, have their case adjudicated, have an award given to them, only to learn, by the way, you won the case, you're entitled to reparations, but guess what, there's no money in the fund. I think that whole process is a disgrace. We ought to either shut down that committee altogether or put some money into it, or at least be up-front with people about the fact that when they apply for those funds and enter into this process that there's no money there. There's not a dime of money there. And that's not happening today. Crime victims are coming through this process, spending their time, their emotional energy, winning their cases only to discover there's no money. That's just further insult and injury to the victims of crime. We need to address that problem. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Further discussion on the confirmation report? Senator Bourne, you're recognized to close on your confirmation report.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Listen, the...again, the appointees are William Brueggeman to the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee, and Charles Brewster to the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee. Both are reappointments. And to address Senator Chambers, his comments, I found Paul