

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Landis?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Landis, when I say "courts", I would mean the county court, the district court, the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Are they bound by the statutory rules of evidence?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes, they are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All right. Did you read the case that Senator Hall gave to us?

SENATOR LANDIS: I...I looked at it (inaudible).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: On the last amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: I did not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But anyway, within that opinion we see on page 2, quote, "The court is," meaning the Compensation Court, "is not bound by the usual common law or statutory rules of evidence, Section 48-168." Which means that they are distinct from regular courts. They don't behave as regular courts. But I have a preliminary question I'd like to ask you...

SENATOR LANDIS: Um-hum.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..'cause I wasn't a part of the agreement that brought Senator Abboud's amendment onto the bill. Was this provision that tells how the court is going to adopt and promulgate rules the subject of a public hearing? I'm just curious.

SENATOR LANDIS: It was not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: At what stage was this added to the bill? Was it added last night?

SENATOR LANDIS: It was, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: On Select File.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes. I think you've refreshed my memory, Counselor, and it was last night.