

be considered in this body. The World Herald editorial that was sent around would indicate that we should be silent on this issue. I suggest to you that all citizens in this country have a right to speak out on public policy, but this Legislature perhaps has a responsibility to do so because we are the voice of the people in this state and an issue as important as the nuclear arms race which affects all of us and our future and our lives is important enough that we should be debating and discussing it on this floor, perhaps even more than an hour. But nevertheless because it is only a resolution and we can't take any formal action, it does make sense to limit the debate. But to speak out and to discuss this issue is the right thing to do and I want to thank the members of the Legislature for indulgence in doing that. In 1983, two years ago, we did bring before this Legislature a resolution to call for a nuclear freeze negotiation. This is a bilateral verifiable proposal that would be negotiated by our arms negotiating team and this proposal two years ago was subject to a very important public hearing that was broadcast across the state by ETV. Many citizens were able to learn about the issue through that public hearing. A resolution was then brought to the floor of the Legislature and voted on and ended in the 23 to 23 tie. Following that action, the supporters of the freeze went to work among the people and came back with a petition drive to place the issue on the ballot last November. Over 30,000 signatures were collected. All the requirements necessary to place the issue on the ballot were met and at the end of the line the Secretary of State threw in an Attorney General's Opinion rule that it could not be placed on the ballot for technical reasons. It wasn't directly an issue that was a bill or a piece of legislation and so because of that he felt they could not place it on the ballot and so all the work and effort in a petition drive was for naught. So we are back to the Legislature because we feel, those that support the freeze concept feel that most Nebraskans support this proposal. The opinion polls which have been distributed to you would indicate Nebraskans as well as all Americans across the country, a majority of which are in support of the freeze, are interested in trying to see that an expression of this support be made either through a resolution through the Legislature or perhaps through a ballot question. But because the ballot question is eliminated, we are left with one alternative and that is to place the issue before this Legislature as the spokespeople of the State of Nebraska. And so the people