

two and I know a lot of you were concerned. And this summer, so that we might during the interim, so that the members of the committee might have an opportunity to get a better feel for what this actually would mean up in Thurston County we scheduled a trip and went up there for a day and an evening in order to see first hand just exactly what retrocession would mean. Now this is unquestionably a unique issue and a very, very complex issue. It is unique because unlike most decisions we make it is irrevocable. Once we grant retrocession it is out of our hands permanently unless Congress changes a policy. And it is a unique issue also because it is so complex because all these different relationships between state government and federal government and the tribe and the three kinds of sovereignties and the rules and regulations running different ways are very, very hard to unravel and I certainly don't have all of them unravelled by any means. To those of you that have not had the benefit of the materials that we've reviewed in committee and the hearings that we've had in committee, it must be extremely tough. And it's also not an easy issue to make a decision on. I find myself much more comfortable with most of the decisions I've had to make as a legislator than this one. This is one of the most difficult and as I indicated I am not going to stand here to advocate one position or the other on this, but just to share with you the problems that I've had on coming to a decision and why I in the end will support it as probably being the best policy for the State of Nebraska and for the Winnebago Tribe involved. Now the theoretical problems are going to be with us forever. You know, whether federal Indian policy in the past and presently is in the best interest of all Nebraskans, whether it's wise or not, that issue is always going to be with us. Whether we should go in the direction of the melting pot or go in the direction of maintaining the separate sovereign nations, those kinds of theoretical issues are very troubling, whether it makes sense to set up a separate court system on the reservation. Those are the kind of issues that we really got tangled up in in the Judiciary Committee last year because you know lawyers like things neat and tidy and consistent and this is not a neat and tidy consistent issue. Now what was particularly helpful about the trip to Thurston County was it gave us, the five of us that went on that trip, an opportunity to really get a hands on feel for what it is going to mean because in the end that is what is important. What's really important is how it is going to