

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Withem, your light is next. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I appreciate Senator Withem's explanation of the process. I don't have an expertise on the bidding process, but all I wanted to echo was a bit of Senator Beutler's comments back in the bid-rigging days that we had. You know we have a feeling here, and I will just take a couple of minutes, I am not going to try and stop the bill, but the point he was making about the bid-rigging process, I was in the Public Works Committee with Senator Beutler at that time, and if you remember, it was the Carolinas where they started with the bid-rigging investigations, and I remember, specifically, asking Dave Coolidge, who was then Roads Director, could it happen here, and the response was no. It just wouldn't happen here. We have all these protections and everything is in place, and I guess this law I guess was in place at that time, too. But, evidently, and we wrote it off and figured, no, it will never reach to us, and when it finally did, it was incredible. It was a tremendous scandal and a tremendous amount of money, and it was, again, that on top of the Commonwealth and some of the other things that happened in the early eighties, really was a blow to the state in terms of our self-image, in terms of a state that was simply above all of those sort of things that could happen to somebody else but wouldn't happen here because Nebraskans aren't like that. And back to the thing about the common sense, yeah, you know, we wish everybody had it, and we wish it was always available, but, unfortunately, there are unscrupulous people out there and they sometimes take advantage of those of us who, hopefully, are scrupulous and try to be careful about what we do. And the fact that we don't think things can happen here, time and again we find that it can. I also want to mention the bill we have on adoption from Senator Matzke, Senator Lindsay and I wrote the Attorney General and said could the Baby Jessica case happen in Nebraska; no, absolutely not, don't worry, it won't happen here. Then a few months after that, that opinion, there was the very same case with Jessica Babb in Lincoln, and now there is a case in Omaha. And so the only point is that sometimes we don't think things can happen in Nebraska that happen elsewhere and they can, and sometimes I know that we overregulate in response to that, but, unfortunately, common sense isn't something that we mandate on everybody and it isn't there for everybody, and sometimes these things have a purpose.