

January 10, 1985

who else will bring it up on the floor? A farmer was killed here not too long ago and do you know that I'm a safety valve for farmers and don't like the role I've been put in where these people come to my office all the time, call me and write letters for answers that I don't have to their problems, and they constantly ask me, "Where is my senator?" He may be a chairman, he may be a power broker, but he's not out there where they need to see him. I've gone to their meetings. I've listened to them. Unfortunately I've been their hope, Senator Lamb. They think I can find a way. So to try to keep something from developing in the way of an explosion involving a lot of desperate people who feel hopeless, I told them I will try to get a federal grand jury. What value really might that be? It might not be any. But to people who have nothing it is something. So I got to collecting petitions and signatures and over 4,000 were submitted to the U.S. Attorney the other day. I got a call from the special agent of the FBI yesterday telling me they are going to conduct a federal investigation into the killing of that farmer, that they are going to use the most experienced agents, and perhaps that will cause the people out there to feel that somebody is taking their plight seriously. Perhaps some of those who may have been thinking about taking the law into their own hands will say we'll wait a little longer and see what happens from this.

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I didn't have a lot of senators coming to me, some did. Senator Pappas, Senator Eret, Senator Schmit wrote a letter in the beginning asking for an investigation. There was not any great movement among the senators to do anything. But we are going to talk about those most suitable and worthy to hold positions of leadership in this Legislature, and I, who am a member of a racial group making up less than ten percent of the population in the City of Omaha they say, so you know less than two percent in the state, and the people who make up 98 percent of the population base in this state have to come to me when there are 48 of their own kind here? When the seven judges on the Supreme Court are their kind, when the President is their kind, the Governor is their kind, the Secretary of State is their kind, the members of their city council, their county boards, the heads of their farm organizations are their kind, why do they have to come to one who is not their kind? That is some of what I have to