

I repeat again, if we are going to get this behind us, let the man, the Governor, whoever is handling this, step out in front and attempt this particular method. For that reason, as I say, I put my name on the resolution. There is one final thing, though, that I am going to insist upon to the degree that I as one individual can do it and this is some information you should have. I think it is improper, completely immoral if you want to use that word, for this Legislature to tax every citizen in this state to turn around and then take about a fourth of all the money we are going to tax them for, about a fourth of that money, and turn it over to the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County in the form of back property taxes. If the property tax laws had been enforced in Lancaster County instead of allowing these taxes to get five, six, and seven, and nine years behind, Commonwealth would have been brought to a head years ago. I have introduced legislation that would allow the elimination of these property taxes so that the money we turn over to the Commonwealth people goes to the Commonwealth people and is not simply a tax on one and a half million people so they can pay back property taxes here in Lancaster County that the Lancaster County attorneys, county officials, city attorneys, city officials simply refused to enforce in complete violation of your very Nebraska statutes. And if you will check the records, you will find that they have admitted this, "Ya, we used a complete different policy here. We didn't enforce the laws." I think there is more to come out on that, but as I say, I cannot be satisfied with any settlement that takes anywhere from 15 to 30 percent of all the money that we pull from every other citizen in Nebraska, turns it over and pays back property taxes here in Lancaster County, and to the Lincoln Senators, I think you should really seriously consider how far you want to go before you address and resolve this issue. With that said as I say, my name is on the resolution, and to the degree that this helps to test the water and find out if there is a solution in this method out there, I will support it. I share with Senator Barrett some of the grave concerns that you can't simply legislatively say you are liable, if on a legal basis and from a Supreme Court decision, the case law is clear that you aren't and I think the moral responsibility and that approach, the public purpose methods and rights under our Constitution should have been used. However, I am willing to try this first.