

purpose of this. Additionally, I am serving notice now that I don't believe any Commonwealth solution can ultimately be accomplished unless this issue of the property taxes involved in the Commonwealth matter are resolved. One senator, a new senator, asked me last night what I'm talking about when I'm talking about this property tax thing, so I'm going to explain it in real simple language. All this property that Commonwealth has ended up with has property taxes owed on it, just the same as if Senator Remmers has a house or I have a house, we have property taxes each year, or lots, or property, or farms, or whatever. If we don't pay our property taxes then the county attorney and the county officials take action and they collect them. That is the normal rule and that is the law. However, if you happen to live in Lincoln or Lancaster County, it doesn't work that way. If you are one of the power structure, they let your taxes go five, six, seven years while they have front page stories about other people that don't pay their property taxes. Had the property taxes been forced and collected, Commonwealth would have been brought to a head years ago. So, if anything, the public officials of Lincoln and Lancaster County are as much at fault as anybody. My point to you is any resolution of Commonwealth has to necessarily involve not simply taking money from the other 1.5 million taxpayers of the state so that they can pay property taxes on all this property that nobody ever paid property taxes on. That is one of the things that we do have legislation on. There is a method to do it. I had hoped to get an amendment on this particular resolution before we passed it where we recited that. I will be bringing that up at a later date. But at this point I would suggest we ratify the committee report of the Commonwealth Committee so it is a matter of public record and a matter of official record of this Legislature upon which the court or anybody else can look to see what occurred and understand our actions.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, then Senator Vard Johnson. Did you want Vard to go ahead of you?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment. If it's okay I think I'd just as soon take it up at this point in time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend