

for this or for that it is because they are to blame or they have responsibility for some reason or another, but in this particular case the people of Lincoln have absolutely no relationship to this affair except the fact that they happen to geographically live in Lincoln. I see no reasonable or rational nexus between those people and this bill's attempt to penalize those people. Let me illustrate that for you by way of example. We've had hurricanes in Omaha and we've had hurricanes in Grand Island and the federal government in the state have sent aid to those areas of the state, disaster aid. Now if they got a large amount of money because a hurricane hit their city, would you think it would be fair if this Legislature passed a bill decreasing the state aid to Grand Island and the state aid to Omaha because those communities benefitted from the disaster hurricane aid? Why that would seem so preposterous and unfair you wouldn't consider it for a minute. Why do you consider it in this case? Are the people of the City of Lincoln somehow more to blame for this situation than they would have been if a hurricane had hit the city? I don't think there is any difference at all. What about federal aid for farmers? We have farm bills every year and some years some areas of the state benefit a great deal by virtue of this federal aid and other areas benefit not at all. Should this Legislature then come in and say, well, now let me see, that community benefitted greatly from the federal aid and, therefore, this Legislature should compensate and take some money away from that community in some other respect even though they didn't do anything wrong because they got that aid, because they had a misfortune or a disaster or whatever. It just seems to me that this bill is so fundamentally unfair in its concept that only the large amount of money that we're thinking of giving to the Commonwealth situation, that is the only thing that could behoove anybody to even think about such a bill. But I hope that the bill is going to be decided as a matter of principle and a matter of fairness and not a matter of the amount of money that is going there because that cannot be an operative principle that can work in the future. You wouldn't want that principle applied to other situations in the future. You wouldn't dare apply it and it just astounds me that Senator DeCamp would offer a bill like this today, seeking to essentially punish a group of people who had nothing to do whatsoever with the failure of Commonwealth. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.