

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise very briefly to support the resolution. I would like to reference a little bit to the World Herald article that Senator Peterson sent around that indicated that we as state senators had ought to keep our minds and use our efforts on things that affect the state that we can deal with and not get involved in such things as nuclear freezes or defense. There was also a line in there that if state senators want to get involved in that area, they had ought to run for the Congress. Well, I guess I am qualified to stand up and speak then. It seems to me, it seems to me that we are citizens of the United States of America, certainly we are citizens of Nebraska, certainly we are policymakers for the State of Nebraska, but we had ought to be free to speak our mind on issues of national importance that affect us also. As well, Nebraska as much as any other state is in the bull's-eye, thanks to the MXs on the western end and the SAC headquarters on the eastern end. So it seems to me that we as Nebraskans have a perfect, legitimate right to speak up on this issue. Now I don't think that simply because you support a bilateral freeze means that you are weak in any way, shape or form, means that you are not for a strong defense, even though I think they are spending money very foolishly, but I think what it does mean is that we are looking ahead. I think what it means is that we recognize that there comes a point in time when we have got to face reality. You know, the federal government...and I mentioned this a while back, the federal government in their zeal to cut back on the spending are promoting the idea of totally eliminating the support from the federal government to assist in the area of soil conservation services. They are saying that, you know, the natural resources of this state...or this country, is not a very high priority to us, but the total dollars for the operation of that soil conservation program is less than a third of the cost of one MX missile. Hopefully, the natural resources of this country are still going to be here for my grandchildren and my grandchildren's grandchildren. But I will tell you, all the money we are spending for those MX missiles, we can't even afford to fire one of them. There is no way in the world you can afford to pull the trigger on them. It is like owning a revolver with two barrels on it, one pointing away from you and one pointing back at you and saying you have got a real good weapon, I am going to pull the trigger on it and protect myself. Now in the race for the Congress,