

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Madam Chairman and members, LB 540 is a comprehensive revision of the Crime Victim's Reparations Act brought to us by Senator Pirsch. We spent considerable time with it in the Judiciary Committee, are offering some significant amendments to the Legislature, and what I will do is briefly describe what those amendments are and then Senator Pirsch, either before or after the vote on the amendments, if she desires can fill you in on the general purpose of the bill. The bill basically abolishes the Crime Victim's Reparations Board and turns the responsibilities of the act over to a subcommittee of the Crime Commission, the Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice as it is formally known. It would abolish the \$100 per diem paid members of the Reparations Board. It would make a number of other changes. The committee, and this committee in the deliberations adopted amendments which would reinstate the provision that hearing officers be licensed to practice law, would allow awards by a hearing officer subject to appeal in the same manner as other awards. We made specific provision for the payment of expenses in excess of \$10,000 for job retraining or similar job related rehabilitative services. We limited the provisions of the act to crimes committed within the State of Nebraska. The original act did not do that. We allowed telephone conferences to make emergency awards in appropriate circumstances. We made some other technical changes and language to clarify the bill. We also made a couple of changes required by recently enacted federal statutes in order to qualify us to receive federal funds in this area, and I believe, and Senator Pirsch can correct me if I am wrong, that passage of this bill will qualify us for an additional forty to sixty thousand dollars in federal funds we otherwise would not qualify for because of some technical differences between our act and federal requirements. So with that, Madam Chairman, I would turn the discussion over to Senator Pirsch to discuss the bill or to adopt the committee amendments, whichever the Chair would prefer. Senator Pirsch tells me that we should move for the adoption of the committee amendments at this time and I do that, Madam Chair.

SENATOR MARSH: Seeing no lights, we are now ready and will vote on the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We need 25 votes for the