

public hearing. The committee reported the resolution as indefinitely postponed. On May 8 of last year there was a motion to raise LR 57 notwithstanding the action of the committee. That motion prevailed. I do have a series of amendments pending to the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pappas, I recognize you. These amendments apparently are yours. Go ahead.

SENATOR PAPPAS: Okay. Mr. President, colleagues, we are going to try to get as many amendments adopted on retrocession to save the Legislature time so we can get to a final vote, hopefully, shortly after lunch. Retrocession is a complicated but necessary step for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska. Basically, retrocession means to give back to the federal government the responsibilities foisted in the Nebraska Winnebago Tribe in 1953. What does LR 57 mean to this Legislature? First, it means putting the Winnebago Tribe on equal footing with the hundreds of thousands of other American Indians in the United States. Most reservations have tribal courts and the Omaha reservation here in Nebraska has had retrocession for over a decade. Second, it means the Winnebago Tribe has the authority and the ability to deal with their people. There are problems, for example, like alcoholism, poverty, which need to be addressed and which are currently being ignored. Third, it means the money which the Legislature sends to the county for law enforcements, mainly the state, will be provided by the federal government, which makes more sense, federal dollars providing for services when Indians pay federal taxes. They do not pay state taxes or the property taxes in Thurston County. There are representatives from the Federal Bureau of Indian Affairs out behind the glass if anybody has any questions. There has been a handout distributed to you trying to explain the retrocession and what it is in the ensuing amendments that we have. On page 302 of your Journal is the retrocession...one of the amendments we have on retrocession which basically has been worked out over a series of compromises made with a lot of people and a lot of time in on this that strikes the civil retrocession and just leaves criminal retrocession and under what conditions. There was another small amendment introduced by Senator Hoagland and I which will be addressed also. I think there is probably a few people that would like to talk on this issue besides me, so to save a little bit of time, if anybody else has lights on, we can go there.