

know, but I am more than happy to share that authorship with Senator Pirsch. I want to say this, I have been, of course, more cognizant of the victims' needs than ever by the reason, an unfortunate incident that occurred here in the City of Lincoln that involved a constituent of mine. The young lady, of course, you know that Miss Simanek was attacked and that family has incurred substantial expenses. More than \$60,000 of expenses have accrued to that family, not to mention the complete loss of income from...because of lack of employment of the victim herself. We do not know, no one knows when the victim will ever, if ever, retain full use of her faculties. But the problem is this, that they have received, as of this time, some assistance from the Victims' Witness Program here in the City of Lincoln but it has strictly been counseling and that kind of assistance, no financial assistance. The point I want to make is this, even if we were to pick up all of the cost that this victim has accrued, there would be no way to make the victim whole, but certainly an individual who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time ought to be made as whole as possible. But there is no money in this program as of this time. And we are in the very unfortunate position of recognizing that in the State of Nebraska exists even now many additional victims who have never made application for assistance. Miss Simanek and her family have not applied for assistance from the Crime Victims' Reparations fund. They have not made that application. And there are others out there in the same position. One of the reasons I introduced the original legislation was that there are many times...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...when an individual is victimized, suffers tremendous loss of income, tremendous physical damage and has to bear that burden on their own. The individual who does the actual damage has recourse for an attorney. They have recourse of other types of facilities but the victim is left to shift for themselves. I think it is time that we acknowledge that although we spend tens of millions of dollars per year on the person, the perpetrator of the crime, we spend only a few thousand dollars on the victims. And I have...I have changed my position on the death penalty, as you know. I do not support the death penalty but I do believe that the victims of crimes, the innocent victims of a crime ought to, by golly, not have to bear...