

disclosure of that as I take a position in the Nebraska Legislature. I should tell you also that, prior to my involvement in that particular case, I, as a State Senator, have been called on, on three or four occasions, to cast a judgement on anticorporate farming legislation, both as a constitutional amendment and as proposed legislation, that legislation having been brought to the Legislature from 1979 through 1982 and on each occasion I always cast a vote in favor of the anticorporate legislative package that was being offered. Thus my position today is in no way inconsistent with positions I had taken prior to my involvement as an attorney for litigants on this question. I have always believed, I have always believed long before I was a senator that it was important for the people of this state to express themselves, either through their elected representatives or in the alternative through ballot box democracy, on the issue of who owns the land, who owns the land. I am not a farmer. I am not a rancher. I have absolutely no rural-landed interests, though my grandfather owns a farm and because of that my father has inherited a farm and my aunts have inherited a farm and that is the extent of my personal farming involvement. But the issue as to who owns the land is an issue that is as old as this country itself, as old as this country itself. The United States Supreme Court, in the case of Hawaiian Housing Authority v. Midkiff, in 1983, noted in this most wonderful of footnotes, noted that after the American Revolution, after the American Revolution three states, three states took the time to divest feudal landowners of their land and to re-vest those incidents of land ownership in other people. That was a post revolutionary act. In 1888 the State of Nebraska became the second state in this country to say, as a matter of state policy, that aliens could not own the land. We became the second state to say that aliens could not own the land. In 1931, in a remarkable display in the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Legislature noted that the Kansas corporation statutes did not allow agricultural corporations to exist. So the Kansas Legislature said, wait a minute, Mr. Attorney General of the State of Kansas, we have a whole bunch of corporations in Kansas now that own thousands and thousands of Kansas acres. You should sue them because under our state corporate statutes they can't own land. In 1933 the Supreme Court of the State of Kansas dissolved the charter of the wheat farming corporation that owned 60,000 acres of Kansas land because the corporation statutes of Kansas did not allow corporations to own land.