

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise with also grave reservations and Senator DeCamp, I will...I don't know that I have a question for you but I will tell you right where I am coming from. Philosophically it doesn't sound all that bad, especially if you come from an area where you have got a pretty fair amount of farmland and where if you have got some recreational needs you can pretty much find what you are looking for. We don't have that luxury in western Douglas County. We don't have that luxury in Omaha, in the eastern part of the state. We are grossly undernourished when it comes to recreational land out there, and my concern, Senator DeCamp, and I don't know that you can alleviate my fears but I am certainly willing to let you try on some of my time, in talking to some of my colleagues, we have the same concerns, and that is, there just isn't that type of land available out in Omaha and surrounding area and it seems to me that by passing this amendment on to your bill we make it even more difficult and eliminate even further the chances of us having recreational land set aside. Now how would you respond to that concern that my colleagues and I might have representing Omaha and western Douglas County?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, I'd respond you stated my concern. You are saying you have got a lot of people and you want a place for them to play and that is fine. That is fine. But the way you get your play is to come out, take that property off of the tax rolls when you are doing it strictly for recreational purposes, take it off the tax rolls, and then you play on it and we finance it. What I am saying is this right of eminent domain is dogged significant and serious and with the proliferation of all those government agencies we should be careful who we are giving it to. If you have a specific project, there are any number of methods of doing it, I am just saying NRDs if they are going to be taking property shouldn't be taking it strictly or primarily for parks and recreation. That should be from some other place. Additionally, if it is done for flood control, then it stays on the tax rolls.

SENATOR SIMON: I understand that but let's just stay with the area of recreation. All right, if they want a parcel of land in Omaha, and again we don't have the ability to choose from hundreds of lots because we don't have that much available there and they find a site that they want to use for recreational purposes and the owner doesn't want to sell it, there aren't a whole lot of options available. What I guess you are telling me is that if a recreational project is important enough, you want the