

difficult. I think about the young individuals who were sent into Iran on a stupid political maneuver supposedly designed to free the hostages when all it could have done was resulted in all of their deaths and possibly the plunging of the nation into a war. We all know that the most worthless thing in the world is a General without a war; so that one opportunity for somebody to have a moment of glory was snatched away... But eight young men will never see the light of day again; in fact, will be forgotten because this entire thing is a media event. It is created out of a political situation. These 52 people are not the only ones who have a problem. Their families are not the only ones who have been troubled. But because it is surrounded by politics and the media, it has taken on a "reality" which is out of proportion to the genuine reality of the situation. The reality of the hostage situation is one which is contrived and manufactured. Now, when I live in a city like Omaha where there is discriminatory housing, Senator Kremer, we are held hostage by virtue of that fact. The schools are segregated so we are denied educational opportunity. Right now they are talking about putting what they call a magnet school in the heart of the black community which will emphasize science, but it is not available to the black children who live in the area. Its design is to draw white children in and give them another leg up on our children. I have to watch these things happen in the city where I live. I watch highways cut through our community displacing old people, displacing poor people, bills coming before the Legislature to destroy the Omaha Housing Authority because the white people in Omaha don't want black people scattered into their communities. Then stop the highways and programs that take our homes from us. Don't let it be a one-sided operation. So after you get through voting for your Freedom Day resolution for the hostages, I hope some of you will listen to the concerns that I have to express about the lack of freedom for the people that I represent. And for these reasons and others that I have not stated, there is no way that I could put my name on this resolution. If you belong to a group which is marked, by and large, by poverty, disease, ignorance, no opportunity, no hope that you can point to for your children to show them a better way and a better opportunity, then it is indeed difficult. What you really ought to do is to add something to this resolution and state that it will not simply be another empty gesture, but it will be the start of a program to bring about freedom for all citizens in this state, that you feel the hostages will have when they return to this country.