

Landis supported. There seems to be an inconsistency in Senator Landis' philosophy of local control as to whether his particular persuasion, his particular point of view happens to be in agreement and he is using the local control argument very cleverly to perpetuate a point of view when, in fact, he is not really that stalwart of local control. The mere fact that Senator Landis' committee heard a bill yesterday about those local county supervisors and local county officials coming down and asking permission to set their own salaries or to have them set by the state, the mere fact that that was before this body, this tribunal indicates that it is the responsibility of this body. Now Senator Landis, as much as he would like to duck that responsibility, can't. The buck stops here. The people elected us to make these policy decisions that affect the State of Nebraska. It is our rightful authority and, as a matter of fact, it is our responsibility to make those decisions. So don't let the arguments of local control lead you astray on this particular issue. We are setting public policy plain and clear and it seems to me as some of the people strayed from the previous amendment and broadened the argument greater than the emergency clause, something at this point should be answered and that fact that it was brought up by Senator Marsh that this is a religious issue, this is a religious item, well so be it if it is. Then it should be out of the realm of taxpayers' money if Senator Marsh, in fact, truly believes that. Then taxpayers' dollars should not be used and that is what we are trying to eliminate, the usage of taxpayers' dollars for a particular function that in the opinion of many, taxpayers' dollars should not be used and I would think Senator Marsh would rally to this flag if, in fact, she firmly believes this is a matter of religious faith. I urge us to reject Senator Wesely's amendment. I think it is our proper role to set public policy. I think it establishes consistency across the state as to what the public policy in the State of Nebraska is. The bill is sound. The concept is pure and we should not be splitting off splintered groups picking away at this bill and we are going to see this in subsequent amendments coming up, picking up just little half truths to divert you from the overall broad picture. It has happened every year and it is a legitimate and it is a very effective legislative tool and I commend the opponents of this bill for so effectively using this tool but, please, don't become myopic. Please don't look at that tree so closely that you can't see the forest. Please don't narrow your vision so much...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.