

the other members of the committee were probably in favor of the North Freeway and that they would be of little benefit to have at a public hearing on the efficacy of the North Freeway, so he did not invite us. Senator Fitzgerald, myself, were totally not invited to attend these hearings. Senator Chambers then, as he has been known to do in the past, was the sole individual who was there....I had a campaign meeting, I was debating my opponent and was unable to go. I was never even informed of the meeting until I read it in the newspaper that Senator Chambers had announced for a day that I already had another commitment. Senator Fitzgerald had a very similar situation, and then Senator Ray Powers, who I didn't want to mention, also was a member of the committee and he was not invited either. The situation is very simple. Senator Chambers then, in his own inimitable way, basically allowed for a hearing and testimony and ran one of his typical shows. It was really a show, a little bit of intimidation, maybe a lot of intimidation, which other people could not be there. Now in the whole process this year Senator Chambers introduces a bill, the bill is supported by no one else besides Senator Chambers, and the committee basically holds the bill, and miraculously after a few discussions with individual members, the bill is advanced to General File. Now when I heard that the bill was going to be advanced to General File, I begged the members of the committee and everyone that that bill be given a hearing this year because, in fact, it is going to die the moment it gets up for attention in this Legislature. And Senator Chambers recognizing that very aptly said, well, gee, maybe this bill shouldn't be heard this year, and withdrew his request for a hearing. Now I don't know any other way to address this issue other than bringing forth a resolution. I have provided a lot of information. Senator Chambers talks about the opposition in his district. Frankly, I don't see the opposition in his district and there is no opposition in my district, nor Senator Fitzgerald's district, nor anywhere else in Omaha. Aside from Senator Chambers, who made this is a very important, very, very, very unbelievably important issue to him and himself alone, there is little or no opposition to the North Freeway, and yet we are being to asked to address legislation that will, in fact, stop this Freeway. This Freeway is important to the growth of North Omaha. It is important to the economic and social development of that community, and I think it is important for this Legislature to address it in some way. Now I would ask Senator Kremer, the Chairman of the Public