May 28, 1981

Legislature, we have just an opportunity to see Senator Chambers when he is angry, when he raises the ante. when he says, you know, if I don't get my way, there is going to be hell to pay. We have seen Senator Chambers use one of his better techniques and that is the veiled threats, the high emotion, etcetera. Now I have tried to discuss this issue in terms of people. in terms of communities, not only the white community but the black community. Senator Chambers is isolated in his position -and he well knows it. This road has support and he well knows it. We should have debated the issue before us instead of this resolution, as he promised. We have done everything we possibly could to make this an issue of issues, not one of emotion. Frankly, there is no support for Senator Chambers' position. If it was going to destroy the community, the destruction has happened. If there is to be benefits for the community. the road must be completed, not just the houses cleared, the people moved. That is the issue here today. Τt is not one of veiled threats. This is not the case as so often we are told that if you agree with Senator Chambers, you are understanding and you are sympathetic and you are a reasonable person... if you disagree, you are a racist. This is an issue of the Freeway, the North Freeway, where all North Omahans are united with few exceptions to its completion and finalization. This resolution is necessary so that we do not have unnecessary delays, that there are no doubts about a legislation that Senator Chambers has not allowed to come up this session. so that, in fact, we all understand that until that legislation that Senator Chambers has introduced is passed, and I doubt very sincerely if it ever will be, but until that day happens, that there should be a continuation of these efforts. If Senator Chambers truly wanted to stop this Freeway, he would have allowed the bill to be discussed this year and advanced. He did not. That is the issue. The issue is, will we continue with the project that is very important to the city, to the people of Omaha, or will we allow, because of our inaction, doubts, delays and etcetera. I urge this Legislature to do the responsible thing, to advance this resolution and next year I hope we debate early Senator Chambers' bill and deal with it fairly on the issue...on the issue, and that is the necessity, the desire, the merits of the North Freeway. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: The motion is the adoption of the resolution number 189. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. The motion is the adoption of LR 189. Senator Newell, I can't hold it open forever.

6049