

have the legal authority to use public money to pay for the relocation of those utilities, let them give the Justice Department and the Federal Highway Administration that legal justification. They have not done it. The Attorney General's Office earlier had said that there was an Attorney General's opinion justifying it. Then when the news media began to look into it, Channel 7 specifically, suddenly no Attorney General's opinion could be found. They don't know...nobody knows for sure why this deal has been made. I have talked to the utility companies, remember I am telling you one of their legal representatives said that they have never been paid for the relocation of utilities if it was not a part of the interstate project. They pay for them themselves. When they are given a right of way there are certain benefits they get and one of the requirements is that should those utilities have to be relocated is that they will pay to relocate them. But when it comes to this particular highway project, not so, and there are other questions that are even more profound than this, more significant because of how broadly they impact on the citizens as a whole that require looking into. I think it would be a gross mistake for the Legislature to kill this resolution. There are already speculations going abroad that there will be an attempt to cover this thing over, protect certain interests, protect certain groups. I have even had it told to me that the announcement the other day by the Kiewit Foundation to give scholarships is designed to spike the public anger and indignation at their being involved in the bid rigging. They are going to smooth that over by offering to give scholarships. Now that may or may not be true but the idea is that the public is very agitated over this bid rigging scandal. The Legislature does have a role to play. The fact that it is a re-election year and we know that people seek campaign funds wherever they find them might cause additional questions to be asked. Were promises made, were threats made to certain individuals to make sure that the Legislature will not get involved in this issue? What I am trying to get across is this, if we of the Legislature want to hold public officials to a high standard of excellence, if we want to say that the judges should operate at a certain level and with a certain degree of integrity, how then are we as the body which has been entrusted with the lawmaking power of the state going to sit here and after a matter has been brought to our...

SENATOR CLARK: You have minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...attention repeatedly by screaming headlines say that the Legislature has no part to play, will act as though this thing does not exist, and although public