

do not. So I feel definitely that this is a poor time to take the Reparation Board off and discontinue its services. It has served a good need and I wish to have it continue serving and I think we should build upon it instead of trying to take it away. So I oppose the amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Nichol, on the Beutler amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, the reason this philosophically is on the book is that several years ago the public was saying, "You're doing everything for the criminal, Legislature, why don't you do something for us the victims?" And at that time and at this time the principle is that the government of the State of Nebraska of any city in which you live or in any county in which you live promises you safety and by hiring police and sheriffs and so forth they promise you that they will protect you at all times. This is impossible as we all know so when government fails to protect you and you are harmed or damaged or injured, then the theory and philosophy of it is that they owe you protection and they owe you whatever your injuries are, your hospital bills and so forth, so that's the philosophy. Now if you want to go away from that philosophy and say, "Victims of crime, we don't give a darn about you," then follow this principle as projected by Senator Beutler. But until such time I would think that this is not a situation that should be handled in an Appropriations bill. The Judiciary has had many hearings over the past eight years that I know of and it didn't come about quickly, it didn't come out haphazardly and this body, of course, passed the situation which provided the funds to take care of these kind of losses. I think probably, Senator Beutler, the problem as it is now is that they are not finding all the victims of crime. Many victims of crime do not know about the Reparation Act or the fund that is available and part of the problem of the people projecting this program is to find victims of crime and let the information be known across the state that these funds are available. So I really think that this is not an amendment that should be on an appropriation bill in the first place and shouldn't be amended in the second place.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Now lets review the Crime Reparations Board. It started in 1978. That is when it was voted in. I know my first year down here was when it really got started and then there was a great deal of expense put in the startup cost and the organization of the office. What we did last year was put the Crime Reparations Board under the Crime Commission. This was to