

allow them the staff without having to pay greater expenses, without...they would have a staff person in the Crime Commission which could assist in cutting the administration costs for the Reparations Board and this is working but it takes time and they are using the Crime Commission to its fullest extent and I fully expect that they will become more and more efficient as they work out this administration capabilities under the Crime Commission. Now let me just tell you who you will be excluding if you adopt either the amendment which is in the appropriations bill or if you do away with the Reparations Board completely. We have in Lincoln, Lancaster County Rose Wolfe, who is retired, age 77 and she was an assault-robbery victim injured during purse snatching at 13th and L Streets. She was awarded \$112.91 because Medicare paid the rest. Now that is \$112 that Rose Wolfe, age 77, retired, can use very much I would assume. Another one is a gentleman age 74, retired, and his wife. They were assault-felony victims in Omaha, Douglas County, shot and died the following month of other causes. When we've talked about victims we are told that victims of violent assaults oftentimes die shortly after because of the trauma and of the "just don't care attitude" that they are treated with by many people. I could go on and on. There are others, various ages, and to do away with even those small amounts of money would be devastating to some of these victims. Now you talk about, Senator Beutler, you talk about why do we have a responsibility to the victim, why does the state take on the victims. Traditionally in our criminal justice system, when we have a crime, who takes over the responsibility? The prosecuting attorney takes over. From our very earliest days from our English law a crime against a victim is a crime against the state and because of that we have our prosecuting attorney take over completely. In fact, many times to the detriment of the victim, and they carry the ball for the state for the victim, we have an inherent long-time responsibility to the victim which because we have become concerned about the rights of the criminal, were ignored and lost. Well we're starting to think again about the victim and thank God for that because they have been overlooked too long and to do this...

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...would be a shame, a step backward and I urge you to not put into this appropriations bill, such a major, major setback to the victims of Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Beutler to close.