

these religious beliefs that they have are very strongly held. And when I as a historian find that those beliefs are that strong, at that point there is no way that I can justify in my own mind, keeping any skeletal remains or keeping any burial goods. These things are extremely important to their religious belief and I don't think that we have the right to keep those. The issue has gotten to be one the Historical Society tries to make it to be an issue of numbers. The numbers of items are absolutely irrelevant, absolutely irrelevant. This is a moral issue. We're not talking dollars and cents here. We're talking about doing something that is right and doing something for a people who have been put down all of their lives and throughout much of their history. We need to do this to try and correct some of the mistakes that we have made in the past. You can't totally correct those, I realize that. But we do have here a chance to correct some mistakes that have been made and to do absolutely the right thing. I don't think it should matter that we have the head of the Historical Society who shows an absolute disdain for the, and respect for the legislative process, seems to not care about that. He simply wants to deal in numbers of items that he can have on display. That is the issue to him, is the number of items that would have to go back and the number of items he couldn't put in his cases over there at the Historical Society. I think that loses the total perspective of the issue. The issue is a moral one, it is a religious one and I don't think that any of us have the right to tell them that their moral and their religious issues are wrong. I think when we find that that is what their belief is, I think we have the responsibility to respect those beliefs. I would like the body to vote on this issue and to deal with this issue as a moral issue putting all of the personalities aside. We have to be able to do that. We have to put those personalities aside. Those are not the things that make for good legislation. What makes for good legislation is the thought process that we each have to go through and the study process that we each have to go through and I think if you individually go through that process and you will find how strongly held these religious beliefs are, you, too, will come to the same conclusions that I have, that we have a responsibility to return the skeletal remains and the burial goods that can be specifically identified with those remains. We have that responsibility to return those back to the people who hold those religious beliefs. Thank you. If I have any time left, I'd give it to Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Three minutes. Senator Chambers.