

reasons is the reasons I offer the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please, then Senator Conway.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, it's with a great deal of reluctance that I stand here this morning at all. I would prefer not to discuss this issue. I have a belief that humanity exists in that small slice of time on earth, in a small slice of time between the last birth and the first death, that we exist from dust to dust as it were. We as humans have a great interest in our heritage, in our ethnocentricity in whatever goes before. The committee amendments that were adopted a few minutes ago are probably a result of my concern for what we're doing this morning. I don't think that any of us have a problem with the remains of human beings. Our problem this morning is how we address the issue of determining what went before and to determine, in fact, what the real value, what the importance is of the various artifacts of whatever race, wherever they're found. For most of us we have a written history where we can determine what went before as far back as a written language might have to have been developed. My great concern is this, and it I think springs from an interest of many years, in the intelligence, an appreciation of the ability to cope with the environment, an appreciation for beauty, an appreciation for things natural and supernatural that existed upon the face of Nebraska and this continent before those of us who came from...our ancestors came from Europe arrived. The people who lived here before most certainly had a history. They had a means of carrying on that history in that the various clans, tribes, whatever physical dimension that you want to place upon them carried forward by talk or by picture graphs or whatever means, what had went before. But a lot of that has been lost and for my friends who we generally call for reasons that are unknown to me, Native Americans, about the only way we have of determining for them, with them and in understanding of them what went before is with the tools and all of the possessions that have been discovered, legally, illegally, it doesn't matter, painted a picture of where the ancestors were, what they did and how, as a matter of fact, they survived and how the religion was...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...and all of the things that we can identify