

would like to ask you a question. You are the only one so far, and I am not saying you are advocating the display of human remains, but I am going to put it to you because I don't distinguish between those that are 1,000 years old or those that are so fresh as yesterday. Do you have the stomach for me to take what I have got in this sack and hold it up to everybody, pursuant to a request from you?

SENATOR WESELY: I made no such request.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The point is, well, who in here is that curious. Is your curiosity peaked? Do you want to see somebody's skull, do you want to see somebody's rib bone? How will that advance you or...that is all that I was going to ask you, Senator Wesely,...how is that going to make you a better human being? How? Does it show a greater degree of civilization after you have seen it than before you saw it? Does it convince you that somebody who has is reputed to have lived 2,000 years ago had, in fact, a rib bone as you have a number of rib bones now? Why so much talk over the display issue? Because the Historical Society is trying to find senators to raise these false issues so they can dig their heels in and delay. The major issues are what the society is concerned about, they don't want to return the remains. These bones have been stored in the Smithsonian Institution for well nigh 50 years. They haven't seen the need to study them. They have thousands of these bones, not just from Nebraska, but from all over the country. Harper's had a recent article that described, and a white man wrote the article, I believe, went into this room and saw skeletons stacked everywhere, in drawers, in boxes, some not even with identifying marks. It is more like a mausoleum, and all of a sudden they are going to tell us now that they have developed so much interest in these Pawnee remains that they have got to be given some time to study them. Who is going to study them? Not the Historical Society. They have already shipped them off to the Smithsonian Institute. Not the Smithsonian Institute, because the only thing they can do is periodically put chemicals in these bones so that various parasites and others that would dine on them would not consume them. That is what it is that we are dealing with. But Senator Wesely did not express any opposition to Senator Baack's amendments. I support his amendment, too. But I am trying to lay the groundwork so when we get to talking about letting them hold onto these bones, we want to know what is really entailed, and whether there is a genuine scholar who is interested,