

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I support Section 6, support the bill. I have passed out to you the tribal resolution of the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. If you take a look at that resolution, it indicates that the Pawnees intend to rebury the dead and the burial goods within the State of Nebraska in a traditional Pawnee ceremony. That will require obtaining an appropriate piece of land, performing appropriate consecrating ceremonies and plans. That amount of time certainly is available for the two parties to negotiate the temporary possessory interest of the State of Nebraska. As a matter of fact, in the discussions in the Speaker's chambers, I believe an offer was made of as much as 18 months of time offered to the Historical Society, no agreement forthcoming. Here is my notion. My notion is that the Historical Society should have the same amount of time as any other person in the State of Nebraska who discovered these remains today. What is in LB 340, it says a one-year delay. What do the Indians tell us privately? We are prepared to make an agreement for that period of time with the State Historical Society knowing that these are not going to be destructive procedures of analysis or replication, and we are prepared to put that on the table. Now, why don't we write it in the law? Why don't we just dictate that in the law? Well, because I think we have given both parties every reasonable opportunity to agree and there is just a very basic difference of opinion. I haven't heard any movement from the three members of the society. They want to be treated differently than anybody else under the operation of this law would be, and that to me is an excessive demand, and if I have to choose, it seems to me that it is perhaps the time for the white man to say, I am prepared to accept the red man's word. If a little faith has to be given here, if we have to decide whose word we are going to take as opposed to putting it into a law, personally I would say it is about time that we reverse and say, you know, this time around, we will accept the informal, nonbinding, but at the same time, I believe sincerely given notion that says, we are prepared to negotiate a written agreement to the tune of one year or perhaps more for the disposition of these remains, keeping them where they are with the society, while we make these plans for the appropriate ceremonial and traditional reburial of the goods. Frankly, I am prepared to play on their turf a little bit. Frankly, it is a chance to reverse a very unpleasant historical trend in which the treaty, which has, by the way, the force of law has been honored far less than it has been breached. In this case, I would just as soon reverse the situation and say, let's make an