

be shut off in midsentence, I will stop now because my time is up, then put my light on because I haven't stated what my position on the resolution is yet.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Landis, please, followed by Senator Warner and Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, I will speak for about 30 seconds, then sit down. I was thinking of calling the question, but I guess there are enough of our colleagues who want to speak that I will not exercise that privilege. The argument that this appropriation is unnecessary and that this function should more appropriately be turned over to law enforcement agencies ignores the history of this very issue. It is because we have become the investigator of last resort that we're faced with this reappropriation. Frankly, I have little confidence to return back to the agencies who dropped the ball. There is no other way to say it. You can't look at the Omaha Police Department and say that they carried this issue with every level of authority, power, investigative resource that they had. You can't say that the Highway Patrol of the State of Nebraska did that and you sure can't say it about the FBI. No. In fact, it is because everyone else dropped the ball that we were into this situation and at this point I don't have the confidence to go back to those agencies that in my mind didn't do their job well enough and trust them with the continuation of this process without the continued active oversight of the Legislature. This story, this case would not have broken without us and this is not the time to get cold feet or to go back to the days when we think that is all right, these existing policies, these existing agencies will take care of it, they didn't, and we only add fuel to the fire that says government takes care of its own, that they sweep things under the rug, that there is an effort out to squelch things. If we grow weak-kneed now or simply return back to the way things are always done because our history is that the way things have been going on this issue, our existing agencies have not pushed this issue to the max for whatever reason. We should go forward and challenge them to go forward with the vigor that this body has shown and match us in our efforts with efforts of their own. I support the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to support the resolution because I, too, believe it is