

you that in my opinion that I would promise that we would take the investigation wherever it would lead regardless of who was involved and what we discovered and we have proceeded to do that. I would suggest that each and every one of you would be amazed, you would be horrified, you would be sickened by what this committee has discovered. Ladies and gentlemen, we are dealing with something, in my opinion, which is far more serious than of someone merely dropping the ball. I want to tell you this, we are dealing with the institutions of government, how they function, why they function or why they fail to function. I think Senator Baack, Senator Lynch and others have, Senator Warner, have touched upon it. I want to emphasize again, that in this particular instance it would appear that the institutions of government upon which we must rely, for whatever reason, and we have our own suspicions relative to that, did not function on behalf of certain individuals. I believe Senator Crosby refers to the foster care review program, that is a part of it, but only a small, very small part of this entire investigation. The bills which Senator Wesely referred to are important bills. There will be many more. But I would suggest to you that this committee has discovered evidence which we believe will lead to convictions, but that is not the most important part at this time. The important part of this investigation is why, why didn't it work? Why is a part-time investigator working for this committee? Why was that individual able to find witnesses and secure testimony which no area of law enforcement were able to secure? Number two, why were we told repeatedly by responsible officials whom I have defended time and time and again on this floor and whom I am sure I will defend again when the time is right and they have done something right. Why were we told that there was, in effect, nothing there, that it could not be substantiated? Why, when the inspector general came out with his report only recently, and I received a copy of it yesterday from Congressman Bereuter, why did the inspector general say that the only problem relative to child abuse in the State of Nebraska as they viewed it was, I believe, to paraphrase it, a lack of communication between law enforcement and the Department of Social Services. I say, hogwash! I am appalled that the inspector general would write such a report and make it appear as if there was not a problem here in the State of Nebraska. The members of this committee and the members of this Legislature have performed a service to the people of the State of Nebraska.