

extremely difficult. It is not a tremendous...but like why would I come to the Legislature? I needed to make extra money, you know. It's an extremely difficult process to go through the court system in our state and receive a judgment for a victim of an automobile accident or some other kind of...of action in our state.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR ASHFORD: So I guess I brought with me that viewpoint, as well as an understanding of the concerns of small business in the insurance industry. I know we had the right compromise. I believe it was the best thing to do. It just wasn't to be and for that I'm sorry, but...for the citizens of the state. And, hopefully, next year or years after we can look at this again and come back with something that makes sense for all of us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford, you are the next light that is on, if you would like...

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have anything really further to say other than to, I guess I would...did want to thank Senator Conway for all his hard work and for Senator Kristensen for working with the Bar Association and coming up with the amendments. I would add that the Bar Association did put together a committee that worked over the summer to clear up some of the problems that the Governor had and some others had with the terminology in LB 159 and the way it worked. And that Bar Association committee was made up of defense lawyers and plaintiffs' lawyers and the Bar Association, itself, removed its opposition to LB 159 and I thought we had made tremendous progress. Senator Conway and I were brutal enemies when this thing started. We were absolutely opposed on this issue and we sat down and with representatives, as I said, of both industries, with representatives of the lawyers, both defense lawyers and plaintiffs' lawyers, and we had some pretty strident sessions. And I learned, as I said before in my opening remarks, I learned a lot about the system. I gained a lot of respect for my friend, Senator Conway, and his ability to see both sides of an issue. I just feel very badly that we have this...after four years of work that we're not going to have a vote on this issue because I think the citizens of the State of Nebraska are losers here and I think the process is a loser. But that doesn't mean that we can't come back and that we won't