

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Labeledz. I want to just talk briefly about why I, personally, and I cannot speak for anyone else, feel that it is important that the committee have the ability under certain conditions to grant use immunity. It is apparent to me, and I have visited with many individuals in the past month, it is apparent to me we have watched law enforcement, many times, grant immunity to certain individuals. Mr. Harvey was granted immunity, at least partial immunity, early on in this investigation. It would appear to me we have seen many times where persons accused of very heinous crimes have been given immunity so as to wrap up an entire investigation. Isn't it strange, it is strange to me, that persons whom we know are deeply involved have not been offered immunity by prosecutors. Witnesses have come to us and have indicated their willingness to cooperate, but are concerned about the fact that their cooperation may, in fact, result in charges being filed against them and no one else. Certainly an individual who cooperates with a legislative committee in this type of investigation ought not be concerned about being prosecuted as a result of that cooperation. The legislative committee would not exist had this system worked, had the individuals who supposedly have the...who do have the responsibility perform their responsibility, there would be no committee. Mr. Dennis Carlson, testifying before the Executive Board many months ago, I asked the question, do you believe that the evidence you have brought to us is the total substance of the evidence? Mr. Carlson, Carol Stitt, Mr. Burrell Williams, all three in unison, without even looking at each other, shook their heads negative. And Mr. Carlson said, it is only the tip of the iceberg. I am convinced, as I stand here today, that what the committee has uncovered thus far is still only the tip of the iceberg. I have said before I believe the problem extends beyond state lines, it extends east and west and north and south, and this legislative committee and this Legislature has brought it to the attention of many individuals. I share the concern expressed by other members of this body about the lack of reporting of this activity by the press in Nebraska. The press must bear some of the responsibility for not having reported obvious violations of good judgment which would have caused investigations to take place long, long ago. Ladies and gentlemen, if this Legislature does not pursue, with extreme diligence, all the areas that we have uncovered thus far, if we do not insist upon a full investigation by the grand juries that are now sitting, if we do not insist that all evidence we