

have that process in this legislative body for ourselves. Now one of the criticisms that the political parties have always made about the legislative process is that there is no organization and there is no accountability and there is no process, and I believe that, unless we come up with something different, we are going to continue to make these decisions in a vacuum. I would encourage us, if we do not pass this resolution, to give some long-term thought to this problem because I think it continues to be a problem. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, I am in support of the McFarland resolution. I did, as he indicated, we are being told by the Secretary of State, I did submit my request to the Secretary of State that I be included among those who are calling officially for a special session and would recognize that that is a change in opinion for me. All summer long when I was asked whether I felt that there should even be a special session, whether the Legislature should call itself into special session, I said no. I said no because I was basically buying the rhetoric that was floating around, no consensus exists on what is the right way to go, what is the right thing to do, so we shouldn't come into special session until that consensus exists. I understand our tax commissioner recently made that same statement that we cannot forge a long-lasting solution because no consensus exists. What is the purpose of political leadership though? It is not to discover a consensus that already exists. You can't go out in the State of Nebraska and discover a consensus. You can't find a parade that has already formed up and started marching down a main street and jump in front of that parade. To form a consensus, particularly on a tough issue like personal property taxes, takes very active leadership by the political leadership of our state. It's tough, it's hard. You have to express some unpopular viewpoints. You have to throw those out. You have to mix it up with people. You have to challenge your own assumptions and you have to build this consensus from the grassroots. It doesn't develop, does not...it is not born full grown, it has to be developed by the leadership in our state. I think, frankly, on this issue we have not had a great deal of leadership coming out of this administration. This is not a new issue. It was two years ago that the train line companies' lawsuits began and we knew we were going to have a problem. It was almost a year ago in the State of the State speech that the Governor indicated we