

Committee's recommendation to the body on how to deal with the Governor's emergency fund...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: ...and the Crawford issue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that Senator Moore has done a good job of outlining the situation for you. I am sure that all of you have been reading the stories in the newspaper and you recognize the breadth and gravity of the situation in Crawford, and in Sioux County, and in Dawes County. I want to say that I do appreciate the work that the Appropriations Committee has done to prepare this amendment on rather short notice, and at times with very little information. They have been most cooperative. A couple of points that I would like to make are that most of the discussion that you will hear this afternoon concerns numbers and damages to property, public property. But I think we also need to be aware that in this disaster one young man lost his life, that other people have lost significant amounts of personal property. They have, in effect, lost their life savings, their life's work, and, in many cases, they have lost their hopes and plans for the future. This disaster is more than just the numbers that are being presented to you here today. The other point that I want to make in follow-up on what Senator Moore has had to say about the damages and the ability of the local communities to assist in their own rehabilitation. Dawes County, for example, on the FEMA team's estimate has suffered over a million dollars damage to their roads. The current budget limitations for the Dawes County Commissioners are that they could raise an additional \$25,854 through their taxing authority to cover this million plus dollars in damages, and that is a statutory limitation. It has nothing to do with 1059 or any other lid that we might impose. It is a statutory limitation. They simply cannot raise additional monies for their roads. A similar situation pertains in Sioux County where the road damages are approximately 1,300,000. Sioux County could raise an additional \$28,300 through property taxes to cover the damage to their roads. Crawford, suffering over approximately \$2.5 million in damage to its public properties could raise about \$9,800 in additional property taxes. And that is the reason, the rationale behind the Appropriations Committee recommendation that we fund in