

May 31, 1991

LB 732
LR 186

certain sectors in the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: And I don't think that's the right spirit to work on this amendment.

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I just want a few minutes to blow into the wind. I've listened to the discussions of this matter and haven't gotten involved but Senator Warner kind of drew me out of my shell when he mentioned the uniformity protection with reference to property tax matters that people have had in the Constitution since 1800 and something. And it seemed like I had made arguments about that not long ago and then it dawned on me when I had with reference to a bill that I'm sure the body passed overwhelmingly this morning which took away appeal rights with reference to personal and civil rights that a person would have in the courts. So it seemed as a greater concern for property rights here than personal, civil and human rights. The same ones who were so willing to take away rights to appeal from a person charged, convicted and sentenced for a serious crime, the ones who would take away that right which had been in the Constitution since the beginning of this state, are concerned about taking away or jeopardizing what is deemed to be a property right. I'm not surprised at that happening because most people in this body feel that they personally, or somebody close to them will not become enmeshed in the criminal justice system. I'm sure that will sell by people when they agree to make certain offenses relative to petitions a felony and I was the only one who voted against that. The only person in this body who voted against making those things felonies, the only one because people felt it would not befall them. People can relate to what we're talking about now because they have property which they want to protect and property rights are more valuable and sanctified in the minds of a majority of this Legislature than personal and civil rights. That's not the case where I'm concerned. It would be ironic if the body so "blithely" voted to pass that LB 732 this morning which, among other things, took away appeal rights in criminal matters, would hesitate about taking away protection for property rights. The two go together like cold