

described to obtain. The Legislature was bludgeoned down by ConAgra and Mike Harper. The recent decision that the Supreme Court handed down probably takes from Mike Harper the plum that he plucked off this tree. So the State Supreme Court will have prevented the Legislature from abdicating its authority completely and allowing the taxes that should be paid by Mike Harper and his ilk to be shifted to the common people. Take the word "rational" out of the Constitution and you don't in any way limit the power of the court to review any enactment by the Legislature to see whether or not it is reasonable. We cannot put a provision in the Constitution that says the Nebraska Supreme Court shall not put a reasonable interpretation on the words used in legislation. We cannot define words in the State Constitution in a way that goes contrary to what is allowed under the U.S. Constitution, so no matter what we do, there is a higher appeal that can be taken. And even if the Nebraska Constitution would be interpreted by the State Supreme Court in a way to allow a discriminatory assessment of taxes, a person, in my opinion, could still go to the federal court and say we are denied equal protection of the law. And the federal court will say, as they've said in certain death penalty cases, that despite how the Supreme Court of the state has...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...construed this law, the law and the interpretation violate the U.S. Constitution so all of it goes by the boards. This discussion, I think, is futile but I don't think it would be wise to remove the word from the Constitution anyway. It is doubly futile because LR 1 is not going to pass. Ordinarily, I am the one who will stand up here spinning my wheels, Senator, going nowhere and everybody else is just sitting back there, well, let him talk because we are not going to do anything with it anyway. Now here I am, the one person among a few, saying let's be rational, we are not going to do anything anyway. It is going nowhere. The boat has got a thousand holes in it, each person has a teaspoon trying to dip a teaspoon of water out when it is coming in by the gallons. The ship is sinking. Nobody can rescue it. Why stay here? You are doing what I like to see you do because all of you, collectively, are doing what you've condemned me for doing individually in the past. I am mocking. I am talking. I am enjoying. And nothing I hate more than a waiter or waitress to serve me...