

was going to say the right to life, liberty, and property, but it was felt that the term "property" was too utilitarian when you talked about the noble purposes for which the United States was going to be put together, so they changed it to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But property is that on which this society is founded. Nobody absolutely owns property. There is no such thing really as private property. As long as somebody can take your property against your will, you don't have absolute ownership, so you hold and own that property in a limited way until the government decides it is going to take it. Now when a condemnation proceeding is undertaken, the condemning agency, the government is going to take your property. You cannot stop that; the property is going to be taken. Senator Pirsch asked some good questions. Senator Witek mentioned that there is some questions raised in a letter from the City of Omaha, and Senator Hall pointed out that all these people scurrying around out in the lobby are the ones who want to do the condemning so that they can take people's property and not give what is a fair market return. And the way to ensure that they don't have to do that is keep the law skewed as it is so that there is such a risk in challenging them that nobody will undertake that challenge. I am going to bring up again a subject that I've touched on this morning, and that if you turn on C-Span, you will see the "Repelicans" harping about in Congress; big government taking from people, big government in people's business. Well, we are not being theoretical now. We are being as concrete as you can be because the government is coming in and taking your property from you. They are taking it. It is not yours. They can take it and say, we're going to build a road; so they take it today, and maybe the road isn't built for ten years but, nevertheless, you don't have that property and you don't have the use of it, it belongs to the government. And they can put up a sign and tell you stay off of it, and if you go on it, you are trespassing and you can be prosecuted. All of these things can happen on ground that once was yours. The sophisticated people in this Legislature may ho-hum at that and say, well, that is the cost of living in America. But if you are an ordinary person out there and you've listened to all of these things you were taught in school about freedom and justice in America, the right to have your property protected, and all these other things, then the government comes in and does this to you, and when you want to challenge it, they say if you don't get 15 percent more than what I've offered you, you are going to pay my court costs, you are going to pay the lawyer fees, you are going to pay my expert witness fees. And