

that it is our responsibility, as users of government services, that we should be interested and ensured that if it is necessary for the public good that private property be taken that those owners ought to be compensated in a way and be given free opportunity to contest without an additional penalty. Senator Chambers is well aware of the controversy that occurred in the City of Omaha when Interstate 80 was put through, or is it 480 that goes through downtown, goes around the north side of downtown, and they were taking some property en masse, and people were not happy many times because they couldn't replace their property for what the value that they were given. It was assessed, and that was it, and if you didn't like it, go to court, and if you don't get more, you have got to pay our costs too, both sides, both sides. Now from that perspective, the federal government has recognized the value of improved property. A number of years ago the Congress passed, but not that many years ago, not enough to help Senator Chambers' constituents, but they did finally recognize the problem and they created the Federal Highway Relocation Assistance Act, and we encoded it a half a dozen or so years ago into Nebraska statutes. And this provides for people who are affected by highway relocation, that have a house, a business building, whatever it might be that's their property with what I believe to be a good and well-defined system, but that protection doesn't exist for those who are losing private property to other entities of government. Not much protection exists for those who wish to protest the valuation. We are going to be coming into a situation where there will be a bill presented to this Legislature that will make massive policy changes in how entities of government may look upon other people's property. I think it is incumbent upon us, as representatives of a million, six hundred thousand some people, that if and when it is necessary to convert private property to public good, that we create standards that afford to the owner of that private property every available redress and don't provide, as the current domain statutes are, a penalty for saying, this isn't what it is worth, this isn't what it is worth; it has more value than that. And that is wrong, folks. It has been that way I guess forever, but it is wrong. The scale should not be tilted in favor of government.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: They ought to be tilted in favor of the individuals in Nebraska, whoever that person is, and we have