

SENATOR MATZKE: Right, the procedure gives the condemning authority the immediate right to possession.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay, well the point of it really is that it isn't quite as simple as what Senator Matzke was saying, that the condemnors, if they feel offended, can hold up the process but still obtain possession of the property. It is the property owner who is at the disadvantage. It is the property owner who has to take it or leave it, that is the state of condemnation law as I see it. And I'm a little bit embarrassed at myself after I heard Senator Withem's remarks because I think he made a point that is vital to our consideration, and that is accountability. The current statutes that allow cities to condemn are confined to their city limits, or three miles outside the city limits. Within that area lie voters to whom the members of the city council are indeed accountable. Are voters of the City of Omaha going to be affected if the City of Omaha condemns a tract of property outside of its corporate limits, to whom are they going to be accountable? They will be accountable to no one. And I am deeply embarrassed that I missed that point, and I am grateful to Senator Withem for bringing it to my attention and to your attention.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I had not intended to speak at...any more on this particular issue. However, my good friend, Senator Matzke's, comments enjoined my curiosity as it were. I have noticed over the years here on the floor of the Legislature that we can engage in endless debate over \$26,000 because we understand \$26,000. But when it comes to millions or tens of millions of dollars our perception somehow changes that those simply become figures on a piece of paper because we personally don't understand \$56 million, or whatever the figure might be. Now, having said that, based upon Senator Matzke's rationale in defense of eminent domain in the use that is purported to be allowed under 830, I live outside of the Village of Gilead, Nebraska, which is incorporated, a population of about 35. And they could, in fact, use this within, I believe, it's three miles of the city limits by the mileage changes we made. Now, let us move the economic development percentage over to the left a few points, over to the left, because the principle is the same. We'll move the...over to 5 employees, and \$5 million. And I have decided