

acting. And I don't think we ought to set up a process whereby internally we work against ourselves. By suggesting that information designed to help us keep within the law as much as possible should be used as some kind of political tool or should be used, should be available for purposes of people who want to bring lawsuits against the public and collect additional money for whatever purpose they are representing. And so I think the logic of all this is that the information should be privileged and I think it should be so whether it has to do with takings or whether it has to do with freedom of speech or whatever aspect of the constitutionality of a particular issue. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Madam President, and may I point out to the Lieutenant Governor that at least those of us back here have recognized the improved way she has handled herself today and we assume it's because of the great advice of the young woman that was to your left. I can't tell if she still is now or not, but we assume that she has given you some tremendous advice and we appreciate that. Senator Beutler, to respond to Senator Dierks and yourself and Senator Jones, for policywise, I'm sorry, we have a sincere disagreement. I think you're wrong. In fact, Senator Dierks argues that it's not fair and it amazes me to have Senator Dierks stand up and say it's unfair that the public has a right to know. It's unfair that we let the actual people whose lands may be taken, we're going to have, not even a legal case has been filed yet, we're just looking at the rules and regs. We're making a decision on whether we think it's illegal takings, we don't want those landowners to know, we want that to be secret because if we do something, it may actually help the landowner, a Nebraskan citizen, in a lawsuit against the state. Boy, we wouldn't want to do that, that would be unfair. And that's precisely my point. We have to become a more fair government. The people have a right to know if the rules and regulations are an unfair taking. For us to take one step, for this body to take a step and say we want to do this law, but we want to do it in secret is absurd, absolutely absurd. Senator Beutler, this is not a legal case. No case has been filed. Nothing has been filed because we're at a rule and regulation stage of which the Attorney General looks at a rule and regs and makes a finding, gives that to the Governor of which there is no real set policy and at some point the Governor can sign the rules into law or not. That's all we're talking