

SENATOR LINDSAY: Is it a committee priority bill this year?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No, it is not, Senator. As I indicated in my opening comments, I recognize that it is not a priority bill, and as such would not come to the floor during this session. I hope to be able to work with interested parties over the interim to be able to bring it to the floor next...in '96.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Okay, thank you. As Senator Maurstad said, this is not a priority bill. This is not a situation where we're trying to pull from committee somebody's bill that they have declared as a priority that's going to be debated this year. It's not a committee priority bill. It's not a Speaker's priority bill. It is a bill that simply will not be debated this year. It will not be debated. There is nothing preventing Senator Maurstad from continuing to work on the issue, as well he should, and I should say, for the record, he's done some good work moving people off of positions that they have maintained, and so I commend Senator Maurstad for the work. But we don't need to pull this bill, revive this bill in order for him to continue that work. I think he can continue that work without the bill, a nonprioritized bill, being pulled out onto the floor. A couple of other things though I would like to talk about, things that the committee heard in...at the public hearing which go to justify why the committee voted with only one dissenting vote to indefinitely postpone the bill. One thing is that we all received a packet of information from the City of Omaha regarding the problem. I think the conclusion the committee came to was that the problem is not as large a problem as has been made out to be. I should also add to that what the...what the experience has been with the State Claims Board, and the Office of Risk Management indicates that over the years there have been a total of nine claims. The amount paid on claims so far is \$152,588. That's what we're dealing with as the state. All of this is over that much at the state level. At the city level, we can't forget that we have already limited police liability. We've already limited it. No one can collect more than a million dollars because we've already put the cap on it. That cap limits what people can get and because of that, even if their damages are well in excess of a million dollars, we've already limited what they can...what the city would have to pay. We also know that when you eliminate liability and immunize people, there is no downward pressure on keeping those chases safe. What we want to have, and I agree that police chases are necessary. Police chases are something that we have