

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: This simply is an effort on the part of the State of Nebraska to recognize the value of Taiwan. And in our relationship the last many years, we've had lots of trade with them. We've had lots of intercultural exchanges, and it is simply petitioning the United States to do this. You may ask the question, why Nebraska should do that. That's probably a valid question. Several states already have. It behooves, I think, Nebraska, since we have had a close relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan, to also join in this. If you have problems with the humanitarian aspect, child labor laws, I do not know what it is like in Taiwan, per se. On the other hand, I do not know what it is like in all the Far Eastern countries. So if that is to become an issue, we ought to examine the whole culture over there, and I think decide if we have an interest in all of that, is it different there than it is some of the other countries that are already recognized in the United Nations? This simply is petitioning the United Nations to at least provide some status to Taiwan in the United Nations, and to pursue further a look at whatever degree or level of membership that is appropriate. I have the House Constitutional Resolution 12 here. It is not...this is not necessarily original with Nebraska doing this. It has been under a policy review since September, 1994, in the United States at the federal government level. It is simply a sense that Nebraska would agree with other states around us, or if other states agree with Nebraska that it is appropriate that Taiwan deserve participation in the United Nations, and that we should pursue studying that. All it does is encourage the United States to do that. Perhaps we don't have to be an expert in foreign policy to recognize that, perhaps some would feel that you do. It is simply because of our relationship in the past with Taiwan, it thought it would be appropriate. I mean Governor Kerrey had a person here in 1983, this is not new for Nebraska. We...this goes back in what's happened ten to fifteen years ago, so it isn't something that is being initiated at this point. This is something that we've had an ongoing relationship with them and so it seems to me that it is not that difficult an issue to face and making...having this as a petition to the United States.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein, again, a couple of