

opportunity, and I believe that they have, and they have refused that for various reasons. I don't know, and I don't think that we, as a Legislature, should be making decisions based on what we would like to do to a country that we've had some ties with as the State of Nebraska. These are very serious matters. These are things that if we are going to get involved with, we'd better get involved with very carefully and do it right. I don't think we want to spend the time in the Legislature to do this this morning. I do think it would be proper to have a public hearing. You could have representatives of the government, if they chose, to come; maybe our Secretary of State could come if his...in his capacity as being our ambassador and give us the lowdown. We certainly could get information from the State Department through letters, or E-mail, or telegram, or whatever it may be as to what our position is and whether or not our own government thinks this is a good idea before we pass a resolution putting ourselves on the line. Therefore, I do believe that it would in the best interest of this body to refer it, not that we won't agree to it in the future, not that it won't come up again in the future, but we certainly will have a lot more information and make a more rational decision upon that. Thank you.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I guess I would like to support the motion to rerefer because at least based on the information that we have now I think probably this resolution would be in error. And I think it would be an error because it suggests a movement in American public policy which is contrary to the suggested and to the course of action of both Democratic and Republican administrations from the time of Richard Nixon forward including Reagan, and Bush, and Clinton, and every administration, and the policy in this resolution moves towards the encouragement of an independent sovereignty for the Republic of China on Taiwan, and that is not, as I understand it, the policy of the United States. The policy of the United States is to encourage a reconciliation between the Republic of China on Taiwan and mainland China, and I think that that kind of policy makes sense. It makes sense for a whole number of very pragmatic reasons. It makes sense for some historic reasons. The impediment to that, of course, is the fact that mainland China is a long ways from being an acceptable society from our perspective, at least, both in terms