

of its political openness, and to some extent now and still in terms of its economic openness. But the policy of reconciliation has done a lot that is favorable, in my opinion, both in terms of our trade relations with mainland China, which has a lot more long-term potential than our trade relationship with the Republic of China on Taiwan. But, furthermore, it's had some significant and positive impact I think on opening Chinese society, at least in terms of their economic system, it's apparently beginning to change in some very significant ways; in terms of its political attitudes, it still, obviously, does not respect human rights in the manner that we think a free society should. But part of the leverage that we have in encouraging them to open up their society is the question of Formosa, or the Republic of China on that island, and holding out the possibility that the United States would support someday a reconciliation and a reunification of what the Chinese consider all of China, and if we go down the road of independent sovereignty for Taiwan, if they became an independent republic, there would be a very significant loss of leverage on the part of the United States if you are thinking of this in terms of economic and geopolitical types of considerations, and I am not even getting into the moral questions which can go both ways and which it is very difficult, I think, for us to make a judgment on. In any event, before Nebraska, on its own, decides that the policy of the United States is wrong, I think we ought to consider it very, very carefully, and for that reason, I would support the motion to rerefer.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am going to oppose this, and I recognize most of you, you don't want to drag it on, and I don't either. I want to read what the resolution says at the end, therefore, be it resolved that the ongoing commercial relationship of the State of Nebraska with the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan should be recognized as serving our mutual interests in an equitable and reciprocal manner. Two, that the record of the Republic of China on Taiwan concerning her democratization at home and humanitarian service abroad be accorded appropriate recognition by the people of this state. Number three, that due consideration should be given by the United States to the Republic of China on Taiwan for the latter's further contributions to and broader participation in the international community, including such forums as multicultural trade associations, humanitarian relief