

officer terminates the chase. It doesn't talk about the relative culpability of these law enforcement agencies. Suppose the example I gave earlier, where the chase originates in that poor little county of Senator Vrtiska's, I won't mention it by name because it's been bludgeoned and battered, but Senator Vrtiska's county board has gotten wise and they've told the sheriff, don't you let anybody chase in a crazy way, and whatever happens, don't go outside the county 'cause a law was passed where they can go a little distance outside the county if they're in a hot pursuit. So this deputy runs two blocks to the county line and stops, goes on home; he's eating some pork chops and whatever deputies eat when they're not chasing people on the road; and he turns on the television and he sees that there was a high-speed chase that originated in Senator Vrtiska's county. And he says, by God, that's the fellow that I think I started chasing 'cause it's the same kind of car, but I left him at the county line, and this chase lasted for two hours. And then he crashed somewhere up in South Sioux City. Well, Senator Vrtiska's county is equally liable for the damages, equally liable in this allocation formula that they've given us. It sounds alluring. Everything in the bill sounds alluring. But none of it will withstand analysis and examination. I will tell you, unequivocally, what my goal and purpose are. That is to protect the innocent third party, to make sure that nothing is done by this Legislature so long as I am here to reduce the protection currently available to those people, to make sure that no additional hoops are presented through which they must jump, to make sure that the litigation is not stretched out even further than exists today; to make sure no additional lawyers have to be involved to deal with these additional parties and different legal issues that come into being. The only one really harmed by all of this is the innocent third party who has been injured. What does the city care if the litigation lasts ten years? What does the county care? What does the state care? They don't care at all. Even though they are entities with a legal existence, they are not living, breathing beings. The innocent third party or parties is and are. They are the ones who are hurt by the delay and the additional road blocks. Senator Maurstad's bill does not come to us because the public says we are unwilling to see that innocent parties are compensated. The cities and other political subdivisions, for their convenience, are coming to us with this bill. For once, we should do something that does protect victims. And victims are the only ones who benefit from the existing law. They are