

committee testimony. I noticed that there was no one representing any of the Native American tribes, Indian tribes, or any of their organizations. Have you been in contact with any of these organizations or what, if any, effect or bearing would this bill have on any of the potential disputes concerning recovery of tribal artifacts?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator, I've been working with those groups on the housing, Indian Housing Act that I also have in front of the Legislature. They have not made any comment relative to this and have not expressed any reservation. I think it would provide the same benefits to them that it would provide to all museums.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Thank you, Senator.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, ask Senator Maurstad a quick question.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes, sir.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Maurstad, in quickly reading across this, your wording, if a donor dies and nobody lays claim to that, you're saying that that automatically becomes the property of the museum?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: That's correct.

SENATOR VRTISKA: In other words, any of the heirs who might be...fall heir to the person's personal possessions would not be able to, in fact, come in, lay claim on that particular property that had been put in, even though it had been loaned to the museum?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Well, it would be determined whether it was loaned or given to the museum. If it's loaned to the museum, you have a different circumstance; but, in the situation where you're either not able to discover any heirs or there was not a will involved or there wasn't any direction by the deceased party relative to what to do with the loaned property, then this act would come into place. It clarifies what would occur. Right now, all of that is in limbo. But if somebody left property to the museum under a certain stipulation, then the