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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Don Pederson a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Don Pederson, would you respond?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Pederson, you mentioned a case decided by the Nebraska Supreme Court that dealt with the cap, or the maximum limit imposed by the Legislature on these claims. The court ruled on the validity or invalidity of such caps. How did the court rule?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: The court ruled that the caps were constitutional.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did any judge or judges make any comments about the possible injustice or inappropriateness of such caps?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, two judges dissented from that opinion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what was their general attitude, if you can summarize them?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Well, I think that they questioned whether or not the cap was constitutional.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And was it based simply on whether or not the Legislature has such power to do that, or because of the harm that can result to people who are cut off by those caps from recovering the amount even of actual expenses?

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I believe that their opinion was directed towards whether or not the Legislature could invoke such caps.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And since the Legislature has plenary authority to legislate on any issue so long as what we do does not violate the federal constitution or the state constitution, what is there, in the opinion of these judges, that should put a