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LR 2

that happened.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well done, Senator Landis. You've restored yourself to my confidence. Thank you. I couldn't figure that out, and I'm still not sure that I understand, but it sounded like he said something that I liked. Now we come to this amendment. You know, storytelling is really helpful because it engages people's mind. The first method of education was through storytelling. When the cave people gathered around a fire of a chilly autumn night, roasting meat and sometimes each other, they were regaled by stories being told. So even on the floor when we can put something in the context of a story or tale, it catches people's interest. I think there was more interest when Senator Landis was telling that tale than there has been on any aspect of this bill. But now I have to go back to the dryness of the bill itself. Senator Beutler raised an issue which I put an amendment on the desk for. On page 2, in line 25, I would strike the word "primarily." I would then, after the word "for," insert "any." Then the active language would say, and this is the property which is excluded from being used for these purposes, "other than property used or to be used for any sectarian instruction or study or as a place for devotional activities or religious worship." The current status of affairs under the Nebraska Constitution prohibits the state giving money or aid to these religious outfits. You will notice that those wily bankers in crafting this language started out in line 21 by saying "notwithstanding any other provision in this constitution." "Notwithstanding any other provision," that will take away from that blanket separation between church and state as far as state aid. This removes that. It erodes it, it eats into it. Because a court looking at this would rule correctly that the Legislature knew about the prohibition of state aid to these religious outfits, and with that knowledge decided to erode that categorical position and dilute it. And contrary to what Senator Landis has said, the Legislature may authorize any county to acquire, lease and do these other things other than for property used or to be used primarily for. The Legislature is going to determine what that means. The counties and other political subdivisions cannot act on this language because it is not self-executing. The mere acceptance by the public of this language as a part of the constitution does not authorize these