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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, it seems to me that those who don't like social engineering in the budget bill are engaging in some more of it for their particular narrow interests. Can I condemn them for it? No, I do the same thing if I can. It just happens that I'm outnumbered. I don't have a church. I'm not operating an education system that competes directly with the public school system. The reason I don't feel sorry for the Catholics, Senator Synowiecki, Senator Engel, Senator Foley, the church is one of the biggest property holders in the state. You all may not know that. One of the largest single property owners in the state. They have a big mess of land, or mass of land, in Sarpy County. Sometimes I'm driving out Highway 370, if that's what it is, and I see a land...a big piece of land with a big sign on it saying who owns it. The Catholic school system is parallel to, and in competition with, the public school system. They're not some little ragtag group trying to barely make it. Now they might have individual schools in their system that they don't give as much attention to as others in their system. How can you have well-off Catholic schools and some barely making it and hanging on by a shoestring? They're not lying when they say those kinds of schools exist in the Catholic education system. The same kind of discrimination that occurs--and I'm saying "kind," not exactly the same--in public schools exists in the Catholic system. If all Catholics are equal, why do they have some schools that are plush and lush and others that are hanging on by a shoestring? Why? It's one system. And then they come to the state and say, help us. You notice when I was talking, I didn't say this is unconstitutional. I said it's an end run around the constitution. That's why they say they loan the books rather than give them. The state cannot give any direct aid to a sectarian or religious operation. So religious people are very clever in circumventing the law. They say, loan it to us. The effect is the same. That's what you call defeating the spirit of the law. If you violate the words in the law, you can be punished. If you find a way to violate the spirit, you're all right. And that's what the Catholic Church has managed to do, not only in this regard but others. And people for some reason are afraid to mention that the Catholic Church is one of the most powerful political entities on the face of the earth. The Vatican is represented in the U.N. I don't see where the