

April 9, 1973

(Start of Belt #2)

likewise, 182, 182A. Subsequent thereto, LB 324, and, in addition thereto, 344, 346, 463, 489, and in conclusion, LB 523.

CLERK: Mr. President, we have one new bill, 17A, introduced by Senator Burbach. Read.

PRESIDENT: The chair recognizes Senator Proud. Are you on. Try your mike switch, there. Try that one. Any of those microphones close to Senator Barnett, he has a strange affect on them. Sit down. Senator Proud. We may have some operational difficulty all the way around here. Try Richendifer there. Senator Richendifer, get anything. We don't get you. You can try, Senator Barnett, but they are all dead, I think. Very good. Senator Clark. That was me. Will the Sergeant at Arms check that microphone by Senator Rasmussen, please. Just see if that is on. Right there, Ray. Test it. Senator Clark, would you try your microphone there, please? Well, May Day, May Day. Before all of that happened, the chair had recognized Senator Proud and that is as far as we got. Senator Proud, should we try again and let's see if we can make connections now. Somebody blow the whistle.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I feel...a point of personal privilege. I feel there is something we are going to have to discuss here for a few minutes this morning. In the Sunday's edition of the Omaha World Herald on the front page was a notation referring to another article on Page 25 concerning Senator Carpenter. Now, I ordinarily don't take offense at what the World Herald publishes. I'd be mad all the time, and I don't know that the reporter or Senator Carpenter are to blame for this, but somebody is. In my viewpoint and I read this article twice, I think that Senator Carpenter was faithfully and honestly expressing his viewpoint but the article as written puts the Legislature in a terrible light. For example, the first sentence here says, politics according to Terry Carpenter is a dirty, double-crossing racket. Now, certainly nobody would object to Senator Carpenter expressing his own viewpoint, but the point I'm making is that if you say that politics is a dirty, double-crossing racket, that may be or may not be. But it indicates that the people in it are dirty and double-crossing and racketeers. That certainly is implication. Now, had I been the reporter which I am not, I would have asked Senator Carpenter and I am sure that Senator Carpenter will respond. I would have asked him if he believes that the Legislators themselves are dirty and crooked, et cetera. The reporter, apparently, did not ask this question. At least, I can't find it in the article. The reporter does say that transcribed there were some 32 pages of tape stated by Senator Carpenter. That is, he talked to the reporter for 32 pages worth. But at this time in trying to presolve this matter, I would like to ask Senator Carpenter, and I am sure he will respond and clarify the issue as to what is meant by that and his opinion of us as Legislators. Now there is no question a certain amount of damage has been done and I doubt that the World Herald will undo it by giving our reply and I certainly want anybody to talk on this that feels so motivated. I doubt the World Herald will give our reply, the coverage it portrayed in this Sunday issue. So, at this time, I would like to ask Senator Carpenter to respond.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, do you care to respond?

SENATOR CARPENTER: First, you'd have to understand how this interview took place. Mr. Pifer who represents the World Herald, and the paper, of course, has never been an advocate of mine and that was not the purpose of the article. Mr. Pifer was writing about what I thought about politics from the time I got involved in politics up to the present day. We're not talking about the Legislature and politics is a dirty, double-