

March 20, 1974

I think it was a disservice to the people that have fought and made John G. Neihardt Nebraska's only poet laureate. And I think that now we must show the reconsideration to these faithful friends in Bancroft....Bancroft, Nebraska and reconsider this motion and override the veto by the Governor. I have one further thing to add. You might ask why Senator Barnett's standing up here and begging for this center....this Neihardt Center....in Bancroft, Nebraska when he lives in Lincoln. There are several reasons. The first one is that John G. Neihardt lived in my district, with Mr. and Mrs. Julius Young at approximately 60th and Vine. The people in my district have tried to honor this man. They have worked hard for it. Young gals that went out and worked as we heard in the committee to collect nickels and dimes to help get this Center started lived in my district. And I'm pleading with the Legislature today because there is no next year. There is no next year for this attempt. We must override the veto and give the Neihardt Center the start in the honor it so richly deserves in John G. Neihardt's young boyhood home. I therefore ask this Body for reconsideration at this time in the override attempt of the Governor's veto of LB855.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh and then Fred Carstens and then Senator F. Lewis and then Stahmer.

SENATOR MARSH: I, too...I too would urge, Mr. President, am I on?

PRESIDENT: Yes, ma'am.

SENATOR MARSH: I, too, would urge reconsideration for an override on this measure. We, meaning the legislative body, gave the original honor to this man over 50 years ago. I feel it would be an error on our part if we do not make certain that we can keep the special memory of this man alive in our state in perpetuity. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak, Senator Fred Carstens.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Barnett a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett yield to a question?

SENATOR CARSTENS: Senator Barnett, you said that Missouri, I believe, and Colorado want this Center? Is that correct?

SENATOR BARNETT: Absolutely correct.

SENATOR CARSTENS: On what basis, what claim do they have upon the...John Neihardt?

SENATOR BARNETT: Well, the big basis Missouri has and I can't speak for Colorado, maybe someone else can, that was told to me yesterday. As a matter of fact, I have a letter here....

(End of Belt #9)