

February 14, 1980

LB 108

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is carried. The bill is withdrawn. The second motion has to do with LB 108. The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I have moved to return LB 108 for reconsideration from Final Reading. I will be brief in my remarks. The principal reason that 108 failed when it was up on Final Reading is because we had trouble getting people here on the floor. We have had absentee problems all through the session, particularly as we are initially getting a session under way. I know that there is a strong vocal minority in opposition to this bill but I personally believe it is a good bill. I think it is the will of the majority of this body that this bill pass. It is generally a bill that has been agreed upon by the Board of Trustees of the state colleges and the Nebraska State Education Association. I think there are strong arguments in favor of this bill in terms of economy of time and money. There seems to be a general consensus that this is a good bill and I would move at this time that we bring it back for reconsideration now that we have virtually the entire Legislature present this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis, do you wish to be heard on this?

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, as the chief opponent of LB 108 I will be just as brief as Senator Hoagland. In the first place there is hardly a clear record of a strong legislative majority. The bill has failed at every stage of consideration at least once. Secondly, although there is agreement by management and the labor organization that wishes to take over the employees at Chadron State College, there certainly is not agreement among the Chadron State faculty that that is the result they want. I finally remind the body that what we are doing by LB 108 is we are yielding to the political power of one party in a lawsuit who happens to be losing the lawsuit. The lawsuit continues. It still exists. It is going on and because the losing party at this point happens to have a lot of political clout, they are attempting to foreclose a judicial decision by listening only for a legislative fiat to declare the law in their favor. That is hardly fair and if other factions had this faced with them I think they would sense the same inequity in that kind of a policy. I hope you will reject LB 108. We have had enough time with this bill. It has been in the batter's box many times and we can move on to something else at this point. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, your light is... Pardon?