

amendments, signed by Senator Hartnett. Banking reports 191 and 532 to General File with amendments, signed by Senator Remmers. Health and Human Services would report 257 and 320, and those are signed by Senator Wesely as Chair. (See pages 713-16 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a new A bill, 639A. (Read for the first time by title. See page 716 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to announce that a former member of this body is visiting with us under the south balcony. Would you please welcome the Honorable Senator Cal Carsten, under the south balcony. Thanks for dropping in, Senator Carsten. Mr. Clerk, the next bill.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 506 is the next item for consideration. It was a bill introduced by the Health and Human Services committee, signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 22, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch, are you handling the bill?

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. This is a bill that was developed after an extensive study this summer by a group of people concerned with the lack of public health programs in the State of Nebraska. This is not one of those kinds of legislation that might be the figment of somebody's imagination and something that isn't as important as others might think. It is a very important and serious problem. In Nebraska right now, we have 19 local health departments. Eleven are county health departments; two are city-county health departments; five are city health departments in Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Norfolk, and North Platte. We have a multicounty health department which includes the counties of Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Arthur, and Keith. Also there is a demonstration state project which includes the counties of Chase, Hayes, Dundy, and Hitchcock. And the site of this project was chosen because of the need for this kind of service and the lack of resources in the area for community nursing. This means that about half of the State of Nebraska is now served by some kind of a public health agency. There are other people in the public health business. You know it and I know it. They include direct services by the State Department of