

May 26, 1987

LB 224, 376A, 775, 775A
LR 235

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, thank you. New resolution, 235, by Senator Beyer, to be laid over. I have a report from the Executive Board regarding an appointment to the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board. Senator Wesely has amendments to 224 as does Senator Lamb. Your Enrolling Clerk has presented to the Governor LB 775 and 775A. That is all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 2548-52 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Just one quick word, which is the prerogative of the Chair. It was my hope that we could make a little more progress through Select File before we do adjourn for the evening. With that, those in favor of the motion to adjourn until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. Thank you. Senator Vard Johnson.

(The motion to adjourn lost with a vote of 2 ayes and 26 nays.)

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I know that when we get down to the fourth to the last day and when we are working at seven-sixteen in the evening, it is not too hard to make a misstep and to inadvertently amend something onto a bill that you might not do at other times. And Senator Pirsch is carrying an issue toward which most of us could have a great deal of sympathy. The issue that she's carrying is an increase in the income standards for homestead allowances for disabled people. Now a year ago this Legislature, as it worked to control the cost in the rise of the homestead program, decided that it would impose an income standard on disabled people that was equal to the income standard imposed for elderly people. So we did that, the Legislature did that. And there were a number of disabled families that naturally were adversely affected by that change, and they underwent some hardship as a result of that change. And I certainly am in sympathy to those disabled families, as is Senator Pirsch, as are other members of this Legislature. On the other hand this Legislature worked pretty hard to control the growth in the homestead exemption cost. And the policy decision that it made was to make the income standards for disabled people identical to the income standards for the elderly. It is a tough policy, but it is a reasonable and responsible policy. I suggest we reject Senator Pirsch's amendment and continue what that policy. If we accept her amendment then the homestead program adds several hundred thousand dollars in costs, and I think it is close to a million dollars, but I can't recall the precise amount. I suggest at