

CLERK: No, I don't.

SPEAKER BAACK: Before we proceed with the rest of the agenda, I would like my colleagues to note that Senator Lowell Johnson has returned to the fold. Senator Johnson, would you like to say a few words. It is very good to have you back, sir.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, it is great to be back on the floor for a few minutes this morning, and then I want to take this opportunity, if I may, to thank each and every one for their telephone calls and their messages, and especially last Friday's greeting signed by all of my colleagues plus the support staff in front here, with a beautiful get-well plant, and that was very warmly appreciated by me. I am sure the rural members of the Legislature have a longstanding respect for the old baling-wire concept out on the farm. I kind of feel the same way this morning because I have the modern counterpart of that holding me together in the form of stainless steel wire, and I wanted to share with you also, if I may, a special note from Governor Ben Nelson. He sent me a note immediately upon his notice of my being in the hospital and then surgery, and he said, you have made history. It is the first senator on the Appropriations Committee that's ever been diagnosed with a heart. I liked that very much. It is good to be back and thank you again very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is good to have you back with us, Senator Lowell Johnson. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, LR 226.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 226 was a resolution introduced by Senator Warner that asked the Legislature to congratulate Mr. Lee Thurber for being selected as the national president of Future Farmers of America. The resolution is found on page 368 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move the resolution be adopted. As indicate by the Clerk, it is recognition of a young person from Nebraska who has been honored to be selected as the National FFA President. I think it is unique, he is the third Nebraska young person that has had that honor in the last five years. Certainly that speaks well for young Nebraskans and it speaks well for the organization and it speaks well for the educational systems which are an important