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February 8, 2000 LB 74
LR 20

themselves. That's just a friendly little reminder to Senator Beutler's friends, (laugh) the county attorneys.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Was that your closing, Senator Chambers? The question before the body is, shall LB 74 advanced to E & R Initial? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 74.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 74 does advance. (Visitors introduced.) Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 20CA by Senator Stuhr. (Read title.) The amendment was introduced last year, on January 19, referred to the Education Committee, reported back to General File, Mr. President. I have no amendments at this time to the resolution.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, would you like to open on LR 20CA?

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. LR 20CA is a response to a recommendation by the Constitution Revision Commission, in 1996, in an effort to update the constitution and also to strike obsolete language. Just a little background, Senator Warner had actually introduced this constitutional amendment in 1997, it was passed out of committee and...but, because of lack of time, it was never discussed. This amendment proposes to amend Article 1, Section 27 to keep English as the official language in public schools, but strikes that English as the official language must be taught in private, denominational and parochial schools. The commission views this language as constitutionally suspect under the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution if applied to nonpublic schools. LR 20CA has a history behind it of anti-German bias in World War I. During World War I the largest block of European-based citizens in Nebraska were German; Nebraska was one of 22 states during this period which expressed their anti-German bias in state laws preventing the teaching of language in any language other than English for