

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 27, 2001 LB 166

everywhere it appears in the bill and substitute "fifteen-hundredths". Now, what caused me to do this is an article that I saw in the World-Herald. I think that there are classes of people in this society, some belong to the elite class, the leaders--the ones who are different, above, better and privileged, and there's no getting around it and their worth needs to be acknowledged. When I was critical of one and they...we find them congregated on the board or the commission...in the commission seats of the Game and Parks Commission. Now one time not too long ago I kind of irritated Senator Bruning by talking about the Chairman of that commission, who was arrested and had to pay a fine for violating the hunting laws which they administer. This article appeared on page 19 of the Omaha World-Herald February the 21st, and the headline says: "I Should Have Driven Instead Of Him," Nelson Tells Police". I'll read it so that I can make the point and explain why I want to make this compromise in Senator Hudkins' bill: U.S. Senator Ben Nelson reportedly told an Omaha police officer that he should have been behind the wheel, rather than let his friend drive, after the driver of the car Nelson was riding in was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving. The incident occurred January 13, as Nelson and his friend and supporter, G.W. "Woody" Egermayer, E-g-e-r-m-a-y-e-r, Jr., were returning from the annual Royal Game Dinner at Mahoney State Park. The dinner attracts some of the region's most prominent business and professional leaders. Egermayer, 53, is the chief executive officer of Mutual Protective Insurance Company and a member of the Game and Parks Commission. He was appointed by then-Governor Nelson. The Police Department incident report said Egermayer, maybe it's "meyer", I'll say "mayer", driving a 1999 Cadillac Seville, was observed crossing the lane line on West Dodge Road near 96th Street. He was stopped about 11:50 p.m. and tested for alcohol. The officer reported that the passenger said, "I should have driven instead of letting him." The officer listed the name of the passenger, "That passenger was Congressman Ben Nelson." Egermayer tested .168 of 1 percent blood-alcohol content during a field sobriety test and .203 later at Central Police Headquarters, according to the police report. Nebraska law says a driver is legally intoxicated at .10. Nelson declined to comment on the incident, other than to confirm he was the passenger, until after the