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Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
February 20, 2013

[LB14 LB21 LB42 LB52 LB56 LB59 LB82 LB292 LB299 LB308 LB349 LB368 LB399
LB415 LB417 LB430 LB475 LB484 LB487 LB508 LB520 LB533 LB557 LB598 LB631
LR57 LR58 LR59 LR60]

SENATOR GLOOR PRESIDING

SENATOR GLOOR: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the twenty-eighth day of the One Hundred Third Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Pastor Roger Criser of the Harrison Street Baptist Church in La Vista, Nebraska, Senator Smith's district. Please rise.

PASTOR CRISER: (Prayer offered.)

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Pastor Criser. I call to order the twenty-eighth day of the One Hundred Third Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: There are, Mr. President. Hearing notices from the Judiciary Committee and from the Appropriations Committee, signed by the respective Chairs. Senator Johnson offers LR57 and LR58; both those will be laid over and considered at another time. And that's all that I have at this time, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal pages 465-467.) [LR57 LR58]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, pursuant to the Speaker's order, Senator Adams would move to suspend Rule 3, Section 14, to permit cancellation of hearings on the following bills and Governor appointments: LB417, LB292, LB299, LB349, LB508, LB487, LB430, LB368, LB631, LB415, LB520, LB533, LB557, LB598, LB14, LB308, LB475, LB82, and the appointments of Elizabeth Neeley, Jeromy Warner, Lynn Berggren, Kent Forney, Charles "Tod" Brodersen, and Mark Ondracek, as scheduled for Thursday afternoon, February 21, 2013. (Legislative Journal page 467.) [LB417 LB292 LB299 LB349 LB508 LB487 LB430 LB368 LB631 LB415 LB520 LB533 LB557 LB598 LB14 LB308 LB475 LB82]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Speaker, you're recognized to open on your motion to suspend the rules.

SPEAKER ADAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, we've all been watching the weather and I've made a decision, with your support, that what we ought to do is to check in tomorrow. We'll have a 9:00 start and we will try to be through with what we're going to deal with tomorrow by 11:00, which would therefore allow some of you folks to return home, if you need to do that, quite possibly before heavier snow begins. And then my other concern are the hearings that are already scheduled for tomorrow, and because they are scheduled it takes a suspension of the rules to cancel those hearings. And as you can imagine, and I'm sure you share this belief, I'm as much concerned with your getting back and forth but also testifiers. And there are some important bills in all the committees that people may want to travel and be able to testify, and I believe, and I hope that you agree with me, that it's important that they have that opportunity. By cancelling these hearings, we will try real hard to find the time for your committees to reschedule. We may be able to find some morning time when we check in and then you go to those hearings and make those up. But I think this is important to do. So it would take a suspension of the rules to cancel the hearings for tomorrow. The plan would be that we would begin at 9:00, try to end at 11:00, and then Friday we would start at 10:00. And for right now, Friday will be a regular day with hearings as scheduled and we'll just take it one thing at a time. If you are inclined to support me on this rule suspension and do this, I would ask those of you that have bills that are up for hearing tomorrow, primary introducers of bills that were going to have hearings tomorrow, that you take a second, think about who was going to show up and testify, and help the committee Chair out by maybe making a few phone calls and letting those people know that we have cancelled the hearing. There will be notification on the Web and elsewhere of our decision today but just to reaffirm that so you don't have some of your testifiers traveling and then they get here and find out there is no hearing. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This motion is debatable. Are there senators wishing to be recognized? Seeing none, Mr. Speaker,...the Speaker waives. Members, the question is a motion to suspend the rules as relates to the hearings scheduled for the afternoon of February 21. Members, this is a machine vote and requires 30 votes for passage. All in favor signify by voting aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to suspend the rules and cancel the hearings.

SENATOR GLOOR: The motion is passed. We now return to our agenda, General File. Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Mr. President, LB52 on General File, offered originally by Senator Christensen. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Judiciary Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. On Wednesday, February 13, Senator Christensen presented his bill. Senator Ashford, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee, reported on the committee amendments. Senator Chambers then moved to amend the committee amendments with FA6. That motion and committee amendments and motion to advance are all pending at this time, Mr. President. (FA6, Legislative Journal page 438.) [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Christensen, you're recognized to open on LB52. [LB52]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. President. As a quick review of LB52, what this bill does, it goes back to clarify to the Department of Corrections that they can allow work ethic camp prisoners to be able to go out and work in nonprofits, to work at...trying to look here. Anyway, it allows them going to the nonprofits that they used to go into but they no longer were because of a law change that we made here in the body in 2007, LB83. It's just clarifying the language and it is the direction that I know Corrections would like to see us go. The city of McCook offered to...asked me to bring forth the bill and I did bring it. I think it's a good correction. It clarifies the language and I'm asking for your support on this bill to move to Select File. Thank you. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Members, you've heard the opening on LB52. We now move to discussion. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this gadget is not working, and in my bill book I don't have a copy of the floor amendment that I offered. Could I have somebody read it to me? And is that what we're discussing now? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: We are discussing the bill, Senator, not the amendment. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The bill. I have a copy of it, thank you. And that amendment, apparently, was adopted? Mr. President, Senator Christensen showed me a copy of the amendment and he offered it and I am in agreement with his amendment, when we get to it, although I still am not for the bill. So if you want to take up that amendment then I will just wait until that is done. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, we are on the amendment to LB52. Senator Christensen has previously opened on LB52, presented his amendment for review for us again. So we are on Senator Christensen's amendment. Is that correct, Senator Christensen? [LB52]

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SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Yes. What the amendment does, it strikes the committee amendment and gets rid of opening up the ability to work at nonprofits to all correctional facility, and renarrows it, like the green copy does, to the incarcerated work camps. But it adds something different that's not in the green copy which just says: except that the department shall only use voluntary participation by committed persons for any labor services arranged with charitable, fraternal, or nonprofit corporations. And this is the part that Senator Chambers said he agrees with. He didn't want it opened clear up that we did with the committee amendment. The committee is in agreements to narrow this back down to the work ethic camp. So we're asking that you approve FA6 and attach it to LB52 to move it forward. Thank you. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Members, you have heard Senator Christensen open on his amendment to the committee amendments to LB52. Senator Chambers, thank you for your patience. You are now recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this amendment that Senator Christensen is offering makes a bad bill less bad. The word "voluntary" would be inserted in the bill by way of this amendment, but when you are in a custody status, especially one of the prison facilities, the word "voluntary" does not always mean what the dictionary might say it means or what laypeople would think that it means. It does not mean that a consensual activity was uncoerced. There is a way that persons locked up can be pressured into doing certain things. Prison institutions and their administrators, which in this case would include guards, have learned how not to leave a paper trail, how not to leave evidence so that if a dispute arises it boils down to the word of the inmate, who by definition is a convicted criminal, against this upstanding, supposedly, member of society. And not only will the inmate not be believed, but the inmate will be subjected to retaliation and, once again, will not be believed if he or she raises the issue. There has not been proper oversight of the Department of Corrections and the activities they engage in. If this Legislature, for whatever reason, is unable or unwilling to exercise oversight of the institutions themselves, over which we have a direct responsibility, I for one am not willing to send these inmates into other areas where we have no jurisdiction, control, or oversight. The oversight, if it is to occur, has to occur, in the parlance of the law, ab initio--at the beginning, at the outstart, at the outset. And this bill is not something which is brought to us by Senator Christensen because he has some pernicious or hidden motive. There are a lot of things which appear good on their face, but when you look at the actual application, problems develop, problems can develop. And when it comes to the Department of Corrections, I am one of those elected officials who have a great amount of concern for the people who are locked up there. In the same way that courts have ruled that the constitutional rights of students do not end at the schoolhouse door, despite the fact that the schools can regulate their speech in newspapers and submissions that they make when they turn in homework and so forth, the basic

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constitutional, I would say human rights of inmates do not terminate when they enter one of these facilities. The reason I say I will avoid using "human rights," there are people in this state who think that "human rights" is a term connected with the United Nations and those other pernicious socialists, communists, and other nefarious groups, because nobody talks about human rights except those wicked people. And it's kind of ironic, almost an oxymoron to say that the good people are offended by the term "human rights," when we all are human and there are basic rights we should have because of that fundamental,... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...essential intrinsic dignity that every human being has. So since certain rights do not leave an inmate when he or she enters an institution, I don't want those rights to be infringed. I don't want the possibility of infringement to be built into the law. Senator Christensen handed out a paper which I presume was prepared by the Department of Corrections' staff. Attention is drawn to existing law. That doesn't mean that it is as it ought to be. That fellow up there, who had the Brylcreem hairstyle, preaching at you all this morning, I watch it from my office so that I'll have fodder when I come up here to try to lash my colleagues with, who are not going to practice what the person up there preaches. He said your laws often don't conform to the will of God. Well, sometimes your laws... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...don't conform to the will of Ernie. And in the mind of Ernie, maybe those two words... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...mean the same thing. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Doctor of the day introduced.) We return to debate. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I have a correction to make. This document was put together by a staff member of the Judiciary Committee based on information obtained during a conversation with people at the Department of Corrections. But whoever put it together, it does not alter my negative attitude toward the bill. It is pointed out in this document that on page 2 in the existing language there is a reference in the existing law to the word "arrangements," the director may enter into arrangements. What happens is that sometimes my attention is drawn to existing law by an amendment that is to be made to that law. And if the language which exists in the amendment is not satisfactory, then the language which it mirrors in the existing law is

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not satisfactory either, so there will have to be changes in the existing law. And this is what happens when a provision of statute is brought to be amended. Everything in this green copy is open to amendment, including the existing law, and you will know that because it is neither underlined nor is anything stricken from it. But getting back to the general comments that I want to make, I am distrustful of all people who have dominion over others. Human nature does not seem to be geared to render one capable of exercising dominion over others. I don't know if people are missocialized and develop that notion. I will not say it is in the genes and chromosomes of a human being, because I don't want to believe that. I will say that it is learned practice. Maybe a person's education or lack thereof, maybe a person's experiences, maybe that person was abused and learned how to be abusive, maybe that person's upbringing was defective and the person who brought that individual up gave the impression that violence, the threat of it, cruelty, and such things as that are the way to make conduct conform more to the standard of what is considered good. That term "beat the devil out of somebody" developed with religious people. They would literally beat insane people to beat the devil out of that person. That's what they believed. There were laws that said you can beat your wife with a stick if it's no bigger than your thumb, no wider than your thumb--laws in so-called civilized countries. In this country, you have people who want to take from a woman the right to make a choice as to whether or not she should carry a pregnancy to term. You have people in this state who want to deny poor, pregnant women prenatal care. You have a Governor who does not want to extend Medicare (sic) coverage to those poor people in rural areas, as well as city areas, who cannot obtain medical treatment. So when these supposedly good people, the leaders of society, members of this Legislature, somebody who is Governor, somebody running for Governor can show so little sensitivity and concern for those we ought to be interested in, how in the world am I going to trust these people who are mere guards where there is nothing in the way of qualification to hold that position? And not only are they put in a position of dominion over people;... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...those people over whom they are given dominion can be numbered among the scorned, the rejected, the throwaways of society. So when those people are wronged, it's not deemed a wrong. And because I will not be able to finish in the few seconds I have left, I will terminate for now. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you are next in the queue. This is your third time, Senator Chambers. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I intend to keep us on this bill for a long time. And this is of more substance than the one you all stayed on a long time yesterday. I will not be merely parsing words for the sake of parsing words. Words have meaning. Words lead to actions. Actions carry

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consequences. And when those actions and consequences flow from one direction, always toward those who are harmed, then those actions do not occur because of accidents, inadvertence, or happenstance. These actions are deliberate and intentional. I will not be swayed by anybody telling me on this floor that the good people who would want to use this free convict labor are of a higher order than others who are given dominion over others. I'm not trustful of those people. Included in the document we were handed out this morning by Senator Christensen are a couple of filled-out requests or agreements, I guess, to participate in this convict labor. In one of the areas of the business district, if this is not just an example, these inmates will be doing painting and scraping. I imagine there are people who do those jobs for pay. Now you've got people on this floor who say they don't want so-called illegals--and they're not talking about people locked up because they don't mind the so-called illegals locked up--taking jobs from law-abiding citizens. If they are putting the hammer down on convicted people, and some convicted unjustly, that's all right. But they attach the term "illegals," a term designed to be insulting, demeaning, degrading, the "thingification" of human beings, and run a campaign on that kind of hatred. It has to be counteracted. And when somebody running for the highest office in this state engages in that kind of conduct, I will stand against it and I'll stand against anything on this floor which seems to partake of that unwholesome, toxic, immoral attitude. Am I being judgmental? You better believe it. Are the people who do the things that I talk about being judgmental? They certainly are. But you don't find me trying to get laws passed to hurt people. I try to get laws passed, and try to stop other laws from being passed if they go in the opposite direction, that will underscore the humanity of everybody, everybody. If it's somebody like Sheehy or Senator Council, you talk about believing in second chances, somebody who committed crimes that by statute are felonies and you don't charge them. But then some scruffy person, and I might fit that description, hair on his face, long hair on his head, won't wear a suit, drag me in front of the judge, and the time that he couldn't give these upper-class, favored people, he's going to give it to me. He's going to say, Chambers, we can't put Sheehy in jail, we can't put Senator Council in jail but, by God, we can put you in jail; you are what jails are made for; and not only are... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...you going to serve your time; you're going to do free work for other people while you're at it. When you put people in prison, when you put people in jail, the punishment consists of depriving that person of his or her liberty, not facing mistreatment at the hands of people who run that facility. And that is what I perceive as being able to happen under this bill and it's probably happening right now. But I'm back. I couldn't do anything about it while I was out there in my enforced retirement or absence, but I'm going to do what I can to balance the books now, to make the crooked roll straight. You loved it when Martin Luther King said fill up the valleys and level the mountains and make the road to righteousness straight and smooth. I'm paraphrasing. [LB52]

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SENATOR GLOOR: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, why don't you feel that way about everybody? Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Are there other senators wishing to be heard? Seeing none, Senator Christensen, you're recognized to close on your amendment to the committee amendment. [LB52]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Simply, the amendment just looks at narrowing the scope of the bill down to department of...or the work ethic camps and puts in that it's voluntary to go out and work in nonprofits, fraternals, and charitable organizations--pretty simple amendment to better this bill. I ask for your vote on the amendment and on the bill. Thank you. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Christensen. Members, you've heard the closing on the amendment to the committee amendment. The question is, shall that amendment to the committee amendment to LB52 be adopted? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted who care to? Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: The amendment is adopted. We return to a discussion on the committee amendments, the Judiciary Committee amendments to LB52. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Christensen's amendment returns the bill to the form found in the green copy, but for the sake of the record, I would like to pose a question to Senator Christensen. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Senator Christensen, would you yield? [LB52]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Yes. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Christensen, is it correct that with the adoption of the amendment that you just offered, the bill before us now is the form that we find in the green copy? [LB52]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: There's one additional comment in there, because we add the language, "except that the department shall only use voluntary participation by

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committed persons for any labor services arranged with a charitable, fraternal, or non profit corporation," which is not in the green copy. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But aside from that proviso, we can look at the green copy and know what this bill fundamentally is saying. [LB52]

SENATOR CHRISTENSEN: Yes, you're correct. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to continue. This kind of topic never wearies me, and let me tell you why that is, and it might come as a shock to some of you all. When I was a mere lad and under the dominion of my parents, I was reared in what would be called not only a Christian home but a fundamentalist Christian home. The church I attended was the most fundamental of the fundamentalists. It was known as the Church of God in Christ, and it was so narrow in its outlook that the only people who could be saved were not just members of the Church of God in Christ, which had a number of churches scattered around the city and throughout the country, but only the people in that building where I attended, located at 18th and Cuming Street in Omaha. Those were the only people who could be saved and not all of them. And we would come out of church late at night because the people at that building believed in keeping you there forever. They wanted you to get an idea of eternity. The preachers thought they could make their sermons immortal by making them everlasting, and they would go on and on and on and repeat and repeat and repeat. And it reached the point where we, as small children on our way to hell because we did this but we couldn't get it out of our little wicked minds because the devil had control of us, if the preacher was going to have a verse from the Bible as his "text," he'd say the Lord is my shepherd, I...and in our little wicked minds we'd add, shall not want. We finished what they were going to say because we knew. But we would come out late at night and look up in the sky where God lived and see all of those stars, and we were so locked up in wickedness that we laughed at what these Christians told us. We'd look up at that sky say, do you think all of that sky, and we can't even see all of the sky, God made and it's made for just two or three of those wicked people in that building? That's what all of this universe is for? They're the only ones who are going to be rattling around in heaven? And we knew we wouldn't be there because the attitude was such that children were terrorized. Then I found out that children in other churches were terrorized also. But I began to read the Bible,... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...because I didn't think that if there was a God, that God could be as stupid as the people preaching to us indicated. They tell lies, then ask God to forgive them, knowing they're going to lie again. And in our little wicked minds we say, we know he's going to lie again. God doesn't know? God must be a fool. But that meant you went to hell because you were talking bad about God. Then they put you in an

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impossible situation. If you don't believe, you're going to hell. So they made you say you believe. But if they forced you to say you believe when you didn't believe, you go to hell for lying. If you tell the truth, you go to hell, because you don't believe and you tell the truth about it. If you lie to say what they want you to say, you go to hell for lying. That's what religion was. That's what it is now. But there were things that that poor little fellow called Jesus did and supposedly said that I was drawn to. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing with floor debate, Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I also was poor when I grew up. So when this book that they gave me, called the "Holly Bible," that's what I call it, they call it the Holy Bible, I looked at it and this was a person who went among sick people, in fact not just sick people but those who were lepers. They had leprosy. And the religious people of that day were as holy as they are today. A person with leprosy had to cry out unclean, unclean; not a human being who is ill, unclean. And Jesus, because that's what they said his name was, went among those people. The ones who had peculiarities about themselves and would embarrass the neighbors when they came over, so that one with the peculiarities would be hidden in a closet because that one was crazy and that craziness came from being possessed by demons. So Jesus did not run away from those people. He went to those people. I don't know if there's such a thing as devils. Now I more readily believe there are devils than I believe there's a God, because I see the work of the devil all around me, even in this Chamber. Cruel things done against women and children, that's the devil's work, from what I was taught as a child. Now if I was taught wrongly then I was taught wrongly, but that's what I was taught. So when Jesus found somebody like that one guy, he ran around with no clothes, he cut himself with stones...and there are people in this society, they call it cuttings. They cut themselves. Are they possessed with devils? Would you put them in a cave somewhere? This guy lived in a cave among the wild beasts. And Jesus said, where is he? They said, there's the mouth of the cave but I wouldn't go in there if I was you. He said, first of all, you're not me, and if you were me you'd do exactly what I'm doing and I'm going to go in the cave. And why are you going in the cave? Because I came to seek and save that which is lost. You all don't need me. You're the righteous people. He needs me and he is the one that I'm going to go minister to. I don't know what kind of magic Jesus worked. I don't know what kind of mojo he had. I don't know if he said abracadabra alakazam, but that man no longer cut himself. He cleaned himself up. Didn't live among the wild beasts with four legs, he came among the wild beasts with two legs--the religious people, who are far more dangerous than the beasts he lived with, because the beasts lived according to their nature. They did what their nature told them to do. But these two-legged beasts supposedly were endowed with intellect and will. They did things knowingly and by choice. So when they harmed a person, it was with malice. They knew what they were doing. They did it to hurt somebody, like

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they had hurt him when what he needed was help, not rejection. This Jesus also fed hungry people. He didn't tell them, go get a job. He fed hungry people. And if there were people from another land he didn't say, you're an illegal, you don't belong here, get on back where you came from, because he supposedly had a daddy who is everybody's daddy, including Jesus'. So how is Jesus going to call his brothers and sisters illegals and tell them go back where you came from, when the source of everything supposedly is God? Did God not know what He was doing? Don't get upset with this. You all invite it by having somebody to... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...bring that religion in here every morning. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: That was one minute, Senator Chambers. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you, Mr. President. You see what a charitable mood and a giving mood I'm in this morning? It's more blessed to give than to receive. I had time so I gave it. Now I think my time is up. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and you are next in the queue. This is your third time, Senator Chambers. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Okay, so this Jesus cast out devils. He went among the lepers. He fed hungry people. And there's a person who had something happen that would break the heart of anybody who had a heart, which I don't have but I've studied people and read about people who do. This mother had lost a little girl. The little girl was dead. And the people were doing in those days like they do in these days. They were heartbroken. They were inconsolable. They were crying. And somebody ran and got Jesus. They said, you do everything; I'm going to put you to the test. You said you're the son of God. God is all powerful. And they may have even known something about the Old Testament where Job said, when he was being tested by God pursuant to a bet he made with the devil, the Lord giveth, the Lord taketh, and this person said, the Lord has takethed, past tense, takethed, t-a-k-e-t-h-e-d, a little girl, an innocent little child who harmed nobody, who could be as close to what you'd find in heaven as anything on this earth could be, and that little child lies cold, dead in the living room of her parents' house. And all the neighbors and the friends are crying. So Jesus says, well, take me to her and we'll see what can be done. So they're watching, scoffing, thinking he's crazy anyway. From the pictures, he had long hair like me, had a beard longer than mine, and he looked more like me than you all, yeah, because there are scientists who reconstructed from the records that they had, the descriptions of the people, and Jesus would have looked more like me than you. So they brought him and Jesus said, well, she's not dead, she's asleep. They knew he was crazy. So he told the little girl, get up. And the little girl sat up, she stretched and

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yawned and looked around and said, why is everybody here? Superstitious as they were and superstition is the secretion of a feeble mind, they all took off running like a flock of birds among whom somebody had thrown a rock. Then a grown man supposedly was dead named Lazarus, and Jesus was going to do something about that too. He said, where is he? He's in the tomb. Bring him out. They said, Lord, no, he stinks. Had Shakespeare written it, he would have said, me "thinketh" he "stinketh." But Jesus said, you don't know who you're dealing with. So then he hollered, because they had stones over the door, Lazarus, come on out here, I want to talk to you. And they heard the rustling of these grave garments and out walked Lazarus as alive and kicking as any of us in here, and he didn't stink either. Now all those fairy tales enraptured my child's mind. And as I grew older I began to interpret and construe them a different way. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I was able to separate myth from reality, analogy from reality, metaphor and parable from reality. And since I don't live in a metaphorical world, I looked at the reality around me. But what I like better was what Jesus manifested than what I did of what religious people manifested. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you are in the queue but you've already spoken three times, Senator. Are there other senators wishing to be recognized on the committee amendments? Seeing none, Senator Ashford, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments to LB52. [LB52]

SENATOR ASHFORD: (Microphone malfunction)...for the delay. We will have many more debates on these issues as we go forward with bills from the Judiciary Committee. I would just ask that AM157 be adopted. Thank you. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Members, the question is, shall the committee amendments to LB52 be adopted? Those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: Mr. President, I have an amendment to the bill. Senator Chambers would move to amend LB52 with FA7. (Legislative Journal page 468.) [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your amendment. [LB52]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, this is a one-word amendment. On page 2, in line 24, I would strike the word "fraternal." That's what my amendment does. And I'm going to have other amendments also. And I'm going to return to my discussion that will lead me to be able to tell you just why I'm opposed to this bill, although I have already. Now I think it was James Madison who said that if all men were angels then you wouldn't need laws. Well, one thing that was correct in that statement, not men, say males--all angels were males. There was not a female angel in the Bible. In the same way that this is a man's world, the "Bible" is a man's book. No matter what a man did, other than being a leper, he was not described in the Bible as having a period of time when he was unclean, but every woman did. Even the women who were our mothers were considered unclean at least once a month. My mother was deemed by that "Holly Bible" to be unclean. My daughter is considered unclean, my three sisters unclean. You all don't pay attention to that tripe and I do because people supposedly direct their lives according to it. And I want to see what the blueprint tells them that will make it possible for them to be so cruel, so insensitive, so insulting, so willing to deny humanity and personhood to others, and among those things was to refer to a woman as unclean. Even when that wicked King David, who wrote about himself the apple of God's eye, men lie about themselves. One of the worst sins he committed, if there's such a thing as a sin, was when he committed the unclean act of lusting after another man's wife, an unclean thing. He was a Peeping Tom, too, because he looked across and watched her bathing, watched this naked woman, King David, the model of the king, the righteous man. And it wasn't enough for him to lust after that man's wife. She happened to be the wife of his top military general. So how was David going to get that man's wife, quote, legitimately? The king can do no wrong, but the king will do wrong to get in a position where what he wants to do thereafter is not wrong. So he told his soldiers, I want you to send my general to the place where the battle is the hottest, and that's where he'll be anyway because that's the kind of man he is, but when he's there I want you all to withdraw from him so he'll be killed. And that's what happened. That's how David betrayed his general, then he took the man's wife, Bathsheba. Maybe they called her Bathsheba because she was taking a bath when he saw her, and she was, being female, a she. This unclean woman had not done anything like this unclean man. And we have people today who treat women like things and, unfortunately, women buy into it. I'm not talking now about the incarcerated women. I'm talking about the ones who are out here. They are sexualized, they are "thingified." When they're three, four, five years old, they're dressed up like little temptresses. Their mothers, who are simpleminded, do that to their little girls because that's the role of a girl in this society. So if she grows up to be a prostitute, why do you blame her? That's the way she was brought up. That's what she saw. When she turns on television and looks at the reality shows, that's what she sees. So you mean to tell me that you're going to place a higher standard on these children than you do adults? If the child behaves as you can expect a child to behave when he or she is exposed to certain influences, you want to beat the hell out of the child. But when grown people do

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it, you want to look the other way, you want to find excuses. I have a file. Mr. Romney said he had some kind of file, real thick, of all these qualified women or something like that. I've got a file almost that thick of Republicans who belong to the holy party who have taken people's wives, who have been caught with prostitutes, and, shiver of shivers, engaged in homosexual activity--Republicans. I didn't write the articles; I just collect them so that I can lash these self-righteous people. So if I'm going to go after the self-righteous people and the ones who call themselves holy, why don't I go after the wicked people? You all do that. You all are the condemnors. You all are the judgment people. But you don't want to be judged yourself by the measure you judge other people. And for myself, I don't care how people judge me. Their opinion of me has as much effect as the sweat from a gnat would have on the Rock of Gibraltar--none. So all of those things having been said, I'm concerned about people whom this wicked society has the nerve to single out from all the other wrongdoers and say, we're going to put you in a cage like an animal and we're going to treat you as much like an animal as we can get away with, and there's nobody you can appeal to because nobody is going to believe you. And those are the kind of people who will be affected by this bill. And you all don't look into it in the way that I do, but I care more about people, apparently, than you all do. If that were my child locked up or if it were me, how would I want to be treated? Then that's the way we ought to treat people who are in that situation. You think Sheehy, when he was a little boy, thought he was going to have to give up his job because he misused government money, government equipment? You think he thought that? You think David Hergert, when he was a little bouncing boy on his mother's knee and went into school and then got into high school and wanted to do something with his life, knew he was going to commit violations of the law that would result in his being impeached, convicted by the Supreme Court, kicked off the Board of Regents, and denied the right to hold political office again? You think he thought that when he was a baby? You think those men rotting on death row knew that a day would come and before the sun set on that day they would have done something that would make these other people feel they have the right to take their lives? We don't spare people because they deserve it; we spare them for our own sake. What does killing other people do to us? You can judge the value of society by the way it treats its helpless children, its old people, the ones they lock up. Jesus told you about that, too, and that's one thing I like. He said, if you do good to those who do good to you, that ain't nothing; the worst people do that. That's not doing anything. There is no virtue in that. There is no nobility in that. This Legislature has the opportunity... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to set the example of what human nobility consists of through the things that we do, and it's not going to hurt us to do it. It will elevate us. It will make us more humane. We will look at children with different eyes; we will look at women and girls with different eyes; we'll look at each other with different eyes. And when we see each other differently, we will treat each other differently. I wish I were in a

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society where it wasn't necessary for me to say the things that I feel it's necessary for me to say. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Members, you've heard the opening on FA7 to LB52. We now move to floor discussion. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my word is my bond. I said I was going to talk a long time on this bill and I intend to. And I warned you yesterday when you were sitting through that long dissertation by Senator Lautenbaugh and you sat and you sat and you sat, and I said I'd remind you of it. You probably didn't know that I would remind you of it so soon, didn't you? But I'd venture to say that if you compare what I'm saying to what was said yesterday, there's far more substance to it, whether you agree with it or not, whether you like it or not. But I'm going to continue talking against this bill and I'm going to continue talking about these issues. And I'll continue bringing up religion as long as you bring somebody up there every morning into this Chamber to preach religion, to purvey religion. I don't go to churches and talk like this, because I'm not interested in what they have in a church. Let them do whatever they want to. So when the preachers and these religious people bring what they've got into the place where I operate, then they're on my territory and they can play by my rules. But they don't have to listen. They can do their damage and get out of here. Why do I say damage? Because every time you all hear somebody tell you to do the right thing and you don't do it, that puts greater condemnation on you. Senator Nelson knows that where much is known much is required. I know that "Parson" Carlson knows that. The law requires you to have knowledge of what you do. The term is "notice." You must have notice that something is prohibited by the law, but you don't have to have actual knowledge of it. If it's in the statute book, that's good enough. That provides the notice. The only people in this society for whom ignorance of the law is an excuse--of all things, those who practice law. Only lawyers and judges are allowed the excuse of being ignorant of the law. What do I mean by that? A lawyer can mess over your case and the judge will say, well, this lawyer doesn't have the specialized training necessary to equip him or her to handle this kind of case so you can't hold that lawyer to that standard. I've read cases like that. But the man who first made that statement, probably back in the 1600s, paraphrasing him, said ignorance of the law cannot be an excuse. It's not that every man knows the law, but ignorance of the law is a plea that every man will make and a plea that nobody knows how to properly counteract and overcome. Therefore, ignorance of the law cannot be an excuse. That's so the important people can get away with what they do. This is a bill where one of the most powerful institutions in this state, the Department of Corrections--I say powerful because they wield power over the lives of people--want this bill to allow them to take people out of this work camp and provide free labor to these white people, white organizations, white institutions who don't want them to live among them as their neighbors. I think of that in the same way I think of the chain gang. Convict labor is something that turns my stomach. [LB52]

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SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: As a matter of fact, that work camp was put out there by Ben Nelson. He came from out there. He was running for another office. He had to give those people something. And I spoke against it at the time it happened. I don't wait till he's gone. I talked about it like this when he was here, put it out there where it should not have been to give them a political plum so they'd vote for him. That's how things are done in this society. That's how things are done by this Legislature. Those are the kind of things that won't even be discussed in this Legislature when you don't have somebody like me here. And they're going to be discussed while I'm here, and I will continue and continue and continue. You think that if you're a vampire and running water bothers you, you can go stand on the bank of the Missouri River and say stop flowing because you bother me. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: But you are next in the queue and may continue. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the Missouri River will continue rolling, will continue flowing, and that's the role that I will take. I will flow through this Chamber like the Missouri River. Is that the one they call Old Muddy? Then I think I will flow through this Chamber like the Mississippi River. Is that the one they call the Father of Waters? Or is it the Nile which is the King of Waters? But I think you get the point. This bill ought to die. There is not enough good done for society at large to justify a bill like this. It affects a relatively small number of our brothers and sisters in a little, out-of-the-way place called McCook, because there are some operations out there who want free labor performed by these people who the righteous people in Lincoln said ought to be sent out there among people who don't like them. But as long as they're kept in a cage, it's all right. Who would want a tiger walking the streets? Who would want a leopard or a panther walking the streets, or a cheetah or an elephant? But if they're in a zoo behind thick glass or bars, then you take your little children and let them watch the caged animals. When I was at Creighton University, and I always have to mention this, the only thing Creighton University hates more than the fact that I went there is that I tell people that I graduated from there, and I did graduate from Creighton University. And it was easy for me. I didn't even attend classes. But there was a guy, I think his name was John Milton, one of those people they call the philosopher poets or something, that means their poetry is hard to read, it's not interesting, but it can be if you look at some of the thoughts. There is a couplet that I believe he wrote, or one of those who is of his ilk: "A robin redbreast in a cage puts all Heaven in a rage." You teach that to children in school, but do you practice it? I read

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where some upstanding Christian set a snare that snapped the neck of a person's little Border collie. They were in a park area and didn't know that these Christians set snares that could catch people's pets. And when the family called for the little dog and the little dog didn't come, they went looking for her and there she was, dead in a snare with her neck snapped. Now my good friend, Senator Pirsch, who persuaded others in this Legislature to pollute the constitution with an amendment which the foolish people of Nebraska voted to put into the constitution to protect hunting and fishing, but it doesn't protect trapping. They didn't put trapping into the constitution. They don't read before they vote. Hunting and fishing--and I'm going to take time at another day to show how dumb that amendment was. I call it the legacy of idiocy. Why would they pass a constitutional amendment to protect... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...hunting and fishing when hunting was already protected in the constitution from the 1980s? When talking about you had the right to keep these guns, it said to use them for hunting and recreation. If hunting is in the constitution and some of the people on this floor now voted to put it in again, it's because they were stupid and did not read their own constitution. Hunting was already protected. Three times while I was here I defeated that. I kept white people from polluting the white people's constitution. And as soon as the black man left, the white people took over and polluted their constitution and exposed their stupidity at the same time. How much more stupid can you get than to put the same thing in the constitution twice because you don't know it's already there? Oh, brothers and sisters, the row that I have to hoe is indeed a hard one. I don't even have a heaven to go to. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Are there other senators wishing to be heard on this amendment? Seeing none, Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on FA7. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, let me bring you back to what this amendment does. It strikes the word "fraternal." There are all types of organizations bearing that title. I think Elks, Moose...is it "Moose"? The plural of mongoose is mongooses, so maybe the "Moose," the "Elks," the...I don't know if they have "stages" as a fraternity, but the Woodmen of the World, all of these outfits and operations are fraternal. Cannot they afford to pay for whatever labor they're going to have performed for them? They looked out and I think their conduct in this regard bears witness to the truth of the following statement, which I did not originate, I read it: It's never possible to have enough money, but it's easy to have too much money. So when

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people have too much money, too much power over others, they become greedy, insensitive, and thinks it gives them a right of entitlement to misuse other people. And even if you can get somebody to sign a paper, it cannot be done if that paper says that a person wants to enter slavery. Those who put the constitution together when it came to outlawing slavery knew what could be done to coerce people, and although the Thirteenth Amendment supposedly abolished slavery as far as recognition under the law, the conditions of the people who had been held in slavery did not change and, in some cases, became worse, again, under the egis of the legally constituted governments of various states in this Union. So these fraternal organizations don't need that free labor. My amendment would strike the word "fraternal." I believe in taking one step at a time. And I'm not going to try to swallow up Senator Christensen's bill, which the Department of Corrections favors, I presume, and all those people out in McCook and surrounding environs favor. I'm going to take it not even a big bite at the time, a nibble at the time. And if there are people who don't like what I'm saying, who think I ought to be stopped, stop me if you can. But if you do, then understand what it is you're doing. You may get what you ask for but it will turn out to be not what you want. This bill is not the end of what's going to happen this session. This is not by any stretch of the imagination the worst bill to come before us. It's a bad bill, but there are others "badder" than this because they are bad not just because of what they say but the motivation behind them. I don't know of any fraternal organization which should be given free labor. And since that document handed around to us... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...mentioned existing law, the existing law talks about this kind of activity being designed to establish good habits of work and responsibility and so forth, and to reduce the cost of operating the facility. But these operations are not going to pay for the labor. It's going to come out of the budget of the Department of Corrections. So their free labor to these people will not contribute to the costs of running and operating that facility. Mr. President, I'm going to ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the closing on FA7. There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senators Larson and Coash, please return to the Chamber. Senator Coash,

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please return to the Chamber. Senator Chambers, all members are present and accounted for. How would you like to proceed? [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Regular order, roll call. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Mr. Clerk, roll call. [LB52]

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 468.) 5 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: The amendment fails. Discussion continues on the advancement of LB52. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk for a priority motion. [LB52]

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have a priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote just taken. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on your motion to reconsider. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, as Fats Domino said: Yes, it's me, and I'm in love again. I'm back. You're not going to be rid of me that easily. I looked at the vote. The number of no votes against my amendment does not mean that the bill has a lot of support. So maybe they won't support my amendment and don't want to do it by the death of a thousand cuts. But I don't know that so I'm going to continue my struggle. And one person even told me that were it clear that the only thing word stricken by my amendment was the word "fraternal," a vote yes would have been given and that would not have changed the outcome. But I looked at the yes votes and the not voting. And if you decide that this is a bill that you want to fall on your sword for, I'm willing to hold the sword for you. And if I will do it on this bill, you know I will do it on others, and maybe you don't and I will have to show you. But I will. We're going to be here together for 90 legislative days and we can do it your way or we can do it my way, and I'm going to do what I think I ought to do my way. This will teach you patience. I've said that the lower orders, meaning animals, can teach the higher orders something, Senator Kintner, and they can if we watch and pay attention. I have a yard in Omaha on the corner of 19th and Binney Street, which won't have any meaning to you, but it runs from Binney Street halfway to the next street over which would be Locust. And that yard is often covered by a sea of gold--dandelions. And the only reason dandelions, which are flowers, are not liked is because they are so plentiful. And people don't eat dandelion greens anymore, so dandelions are considered among the undesirable plants, but they're very difficult to get rid of. Aesop was a slave in Greece, and when he was to be purchased, the man who wanted to purchase him...because anybody could have been a slave in those days. You didn't have to be my complexion. You didn't have to be somebody who was helpless. You could have been captured or the one who owned you could have been

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captured and you were part of the spoils. And Aesop had a reputation of being a good storyteller. So this one Greek was intrigued with the idea, so he asked Aesop: If I purchase you, would you run away? And Aesop said: If you placed a bird in a cage and you asked the bird, would it escape if it could, what would the answer be that the bird gave you? So the man said, I'm going to give you a try, so he bought Aesop. He was going to go on a long trek and there were different-sized bundles and each person could choose the bundle he was going to carry. So everybody wondered what this smart man Aesop was going to do. So Aesop looked around and he took the biggest bundle he could find. He said: I'll take that one. And everybody laughed, but they didn't have the last laugh. Aesop had calculated that the bundle that would be largest contained the food. So the further they walked, the lighter became his load. And by the time they reached the end of the trek, Aesop, of all of the others, was carrying nothing. Is that true or not? I don't know. I don't even know if there was an Aesop. But at any rate, that was what this man had done. So sometimes stories are told for a purpose. And I'm going to continue pushing against this bill because it is not beneficial for this society. It's beneficial to those who will get the free labor. And I think a lot of people on this floor could vote for it because nobody who means anything to them will ever go to prison, will never have to give this free labor. But as soon as that eventuality becomes a reality, suddenly their whole view of things changes. Unlike former President Clinton, they cannot feel other people's pain, unless they are feeling it at the time. This motion to reconsider is something that would be wonderful if this society would practice it. As soon as a person ran afoul of the law, or if a company ran afoul of company rules and regulations, or as Lieutenant Governor whose sweetie pie was...sweetie pies, plural, were just too much for him so he gave in to the temptation again and again and again, they get a second chance as I'm giving you a second chance right after you blundered. And you'll probably make the same blunder again. Just like my good friend Senator Karpisek, I bet he's got the same kind of coffee in that cup now that was in it when he got his first cup this morning. So a man who doesn't change his coffee between cups is not going to change his mind because I give them the opportunity to rectify what was done. Why shouldn't Sheehy be sentenced to do some free labor? Why shouldn't he do that? Wouldn't it be a good lesson for him? It wouldn't take away his dignity, would it? It doesn't take dignity away from anybody else. It would teach him good work habits and it would let him know that crime of any kind does not pay. And when the piper comes and you dance to the piper's tune, then you've got to pay the piper when the time comes. You all have heard the little rhyme. Senator Wallman I know has, Senator Davis; Senator Schumacher; the senator who's got towns named after him--Senator Bloomfield. Old King Cole was a merry old soul and a merry old soul was he; he called for his pipe, he called for his bowl, he called for his fiddlers three. Rick Sheehy was a lonely man and a very lonely man was he. He took the government's phone and he called one, two, three, four--one more; and he called and he called and he called and he called and he called, multiplied by 2,000 times. Why don't you like that? If I was talking about somebody you don't like, you'd be just guffawing, wouldn't you? Different strokes for different folks. And all that goes back to this bill. In your view, the "right"...the right

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kind of people are being made to give free labor, so it's all right. But it's not all right with me. So you're going to earn that big salary that they pay you down here, that \$12,000 a year; you're going to earn it. And from time to time you're going to be inflicted by me with those handouts that I give. For those who didn't see it, in 2008 it was the fiftieth anniversary of a documentary in which I played a key role. At the time the documentary was made, there were all kind of critical acclaim all over the country, even other parts of the world. Some people from the BBC came here...when I say here, to Omaha, to view me for a documentary they're putting together on the preacher who was there. Came all the way from England to talk to me. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the handout that I gave you...I've talked nine minutes already? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Yes, you have, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Time goes fast when you're having fun, doesn't it? Anyway, I will continue this when I'm recognized when I turn on my light. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, you've heard the opening on the motion to reconsider. Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: Mr. President, yes, if you may. Thank you. Hearing notices, Mr. President, from the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as a series of hearing notice cancellations from the various Wednesday...or Thursday committees, I should say. So that includes Judiciary, Natural Resources, Revenue, the Government, and Health and Human Services Committee. That's all that I had, Mr. President. Thank you. (Legislative Journal pages 469-470.)

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We now move to discussion. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Since people are waiting with bated breath for me to finish this tale, I'm going to finish it. So I put a handout on your desk this morning and I put attached to it a copy of a photograph of me standing beside the statue of Oscar. That statue is a monster thing compared to me, so I had to stand on a chair and he still was taller than I am. Head and shoulders above me and I'm standing on a chair. That was taken in New York. That was in connection with the Academy Awards. Who in this Chamber has ever had that happen to them? Who has ever been to New York for anything like that? And you know why I handed it around? So some of the Nebraskans, at least in this Chamber, who hold me in such low esteem will know that that's not the way it is everywhere. I know that they are sane people other places.

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I've seen them. I've been around them. And it lets some of you know that I've been someplace beyond...besides Nebraska. I've been to many cities. Why, I was even in Waterloo, Iowa, one time. And when I was in New York, the people won't make eye contact with you. And I decided that it might be because I was going to ask them for a nickel, the way I dress and all. Then upon deeper reflection, maybe they looked at me and said, this guy, he's black, he's got a beard and long hair; he is probably going to stick me up to get the money to go the next place where he is going to rob a bank or something. So they made sure they didn't make eye contact with me. And I owned them because I could look at everybody and not one of them could look at me. I saw what was going on and what they were doing, but they didn't see what I was doing. On occasion, I've been caught where people are praying and I hold my head up and I look around, then somebody will come and say, why didn't you bow your head and close your eyes when they're praying? And I say, if your head was bowed and your eyes were closed, you wouldn't have seen me looking around, would you? That's the way it goes. So much that we could learn if we would just pay attention and watch. And one thing that I've learned in all the traveling that I've done, all the studying I've done, all the observing that I've done, is that the ones who are at the bottom rung of the social ladder are the ones who are mistreated in this and every other society, because they're the ones that people can mistreat and get away with. They're the ones who can be dumped on. They're the ones on whom people can vent, who take out their frustrations on. And if one of them is killed, then that's just par for the course. If it's an obvious bad killing, then the one who did it will get some time, but not the time if it were reversed. Not long ago a woman, called a philanthropist--we call her a socialite, we who are poor--ran over and killed a person and got probation. Killed a person under circumstances defined by the law which would have made it a serious offense and there would have been jail time. And to prove it, I don't have to do it. I can give you an example and you know it if you won't deny it. If this ordinary garden-variety citizen had killed that socialite with his car under the same circumstances, he would not have gotten probation and a few hours of community service. He would be in jail now. You all see what I see. You know what I know. It doesn't bother you. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: If it bothered you we would do something to see that the law indeed wears a blindfold. And all, if they're equal, nowhere else will enjoy equality before the law. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) We continue with floor debate. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many days? Okay. Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the introducer of this bill and I were just negotiating, and we've come to the conclusion that we are a microcosm of Congress. There can be no

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compromise. There's no give. And here's the way you like to negotiate with me, because you look at my complexion and you underestimate me and you think I'm stupid. Not Senator Christensen. This is...not him. He came here with a legitimate concern. But I'm telling you the way it usually goes. I have six eggs and the white guy has got six eggs. He wants to negotiate till he's got 12 eggs and I've got no eggs. Then he says, when you get some more eggs, come back and let's negotiate again. And that's why my so-called red brothers and sisters are on reservations. And these palefaces can look at people who derived from the same racial stock and say, you are an illegal and you don't belong here. And his ancestors came here and stole this land, slaughtered people. Do you know what Wounded Knee refers to? There's a very important university out East named after an individual who sold small pox-infected blankets to my so-called red brothers and sisters. He was a Christian. A very elite school out East is named after him, and somebody will tell you all the name of that school. That's what they did. They slaughtered women and children. But the U.S. Army was embarrassed when they went after a man, the Nez Perce were the tribe. His name was Chief Joseph and he took all of the women and all of the children and fled from the U.S. Army. Naturally, they eventually were caught. But even the military people expressed admiration for how that man could move all of those people, women, children, old people. But at the end, Chief Joseph thought what would be in the best interest overall of his people. He could read the writing on the wall. He knew they could not escape forever. So when they captured him, he said: I will fight no more forever. But there are people who are fighting a different way to try to get off the reservation. A white group, called Paul Revere, I think: They took the whole Cherokee Nation, locked them on a reservation, took away our native tongue and taught their English to our young. There were so-called Indian missions run by white Christian missionaries who raped the children; who cut the hair off the children. Anything that could demean, debase, and degrade them was done. Then there are white people who have the nerve to call anybody an illegal. Why, what kind of craziness is that? And I'm supposed to go along with it? And my people were owned like cows, pigs, and chickens and I'm not to identify with people who are called illegals? The hatred, the contempt. I wish that person had some German ancestry and would know how people who were Germans were treated in this country, and some of theirs helped steal the land. But even some of theirs were treated a certain way. And if you read the statutes now you can find some of the contempt they had for people of German derivation. And those who are of that derivation... [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...know what I'm talking about. In this state, and you've got white people running around here calling people illegals and saying that a fetus in the womb of a so-called illegal woman is not entitled to the treatment that any civilized society would grant. These are human beings just as these people who are locked up are human beings. And anytime I see something that is an attack, knowingly, unknowingly, intentionally, accidentally, an attack upon a denigration of the humanity of

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any person,... [LB52]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then I've got to do something about it. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized and this will be your third time, so we'll let you close on your motion to reconsider. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm far from through. All you're doing is listening to me, if you're listening. All you are is exposed to what I'm saying. I'm talking about people who suffered at the hands of your ancestors and who are to be made to suffer today from the...by the descendents of those ancestors who can pontificate and say, I'm going to run for the top office in this state but I hate those people. They are illegals; vote for me because I'm like you. You are like me and you can't fool me because I'm one of you and I know what you are. You hate them just like I hate them; so put me in the Governor's chair and I will show you how to treat them. The Governor there right now is cutting the way. There are people who should be entitled under a presidential executive order to obtain a driver's license. But that racist in the...yeah, I'm talking about whatever his name...Heineman. It's racism that makes him say these people cannot have a driver's license when they are entitled to one. This...what kind of state is this? You think every black man has a tongue that is tied? Do you think every black man is afraid to look a white man in the face; call a white man when he has done wrong; when he's doing wrong? And he can do that wrong and people are too cowardly to stand up and speak against it. These preachers who come up here, they'll make the sign of the cross and put you all through his dogma. And there are people being denied rights in this state by your Governor and you won't even talk about it. And you think I won't talk about it? What becomes of freedom of speech? Why are there some subjects that can't be discussed? Profanity can be used. It's on television. I don't use profanity. That would be all right though, because everybody uses profanity. They don't like the subjects that I talk about; and the subjects that I talk about involve the people who have no voice, who have no friend; and if they have friends, their friends are intimidated into silence. And they think because they can intimidate everybody else, they can intimidate every individual. And you don't have to defend the Governor. He can defend himself. He's a grown man. He's got more power than you've got. If you could behave the way the angels of your higher nature would make you behave, you would join me in doing something to make sure that those people could have that driver's license. We would override the Governor. But you're not going to do it. And you think you have to defend somebody like who's got more power than you've got? Let him put me in my place. I'm not like somebody on a reservation

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who has no voice. I'm not a female who has been socialized to accept a position of inferiority and subservience. I am a man and I'm a man according to the definition that black people put on that word, and I will behave and comport myself as a man. My children will never have cause to be ashamed of me as their father because when he should have spoken he was silent, when he could have acted he did nothing. Not this one. And every time that I can say something... [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if all I have is the use of my voice then I'm going to use my voice like that little fellow that I was telling you about earlier. I didn't see where Jesus ever took a sword to anybody. I didn't see where he ever punched anybody in the nose. I didn't see where he said, all of you guys get a sword because you've got to protect yourself. In fact, he told Peter, after you've cut a guy's ear off defending Jesus, he who lives by the sword will die by the sword. He picked the guy's ear up and stuck it back on his head. Now that's an act that's hard to follow. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, you've heard the closing on the motion to reconsider the last vote taken. The question before the body is, shall the vote to FA7 be reconsidered? All those in favor...Senator Chambers. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: A call of the house and a roll call vote. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senators Lathrop, Ashford, Davis, and Burke Harr, please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. Thank you, Senator Chambers. We will now proceed...members, the vote is to reconsider the last vote taken. There has been a request for a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk, please read the roll. [LB52]

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 471.) 7 ayes, 37 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to reconsider. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: The motion to reconsider is not adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have an item? Raise the call. [LB52]

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CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, an amendment to the bill. Senator Chambers would move to amend. Page 2, line 24, strike the words "nonprofit corporation." (FA8, Legislative Journal page 471.) [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on your floor amendment. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, any bill that makes it to the floor which treats inmates in a way that I think is unjust I'm going to do exactly what I'm doing today. I will not get tired. I will not run out of energy. I told you all I was going to be an example for old folks, didn't I? And I'm going to be an example for young folks also, because I believe what I believe. And this Chamber belongs to me. Actually it's called Chambers, plural. There was a fighter named Marvin Hagler, light middleweight champion of the world. Such a good fighter, they hung the nickname on him of marvelous: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. So he actually had his name changed to Marvelous Marvin Hagler. There's a basketball player who for whatever reason had his name changed to Metta--M-e-t-t-a--World Peace. I don't have the ability to read what's in a man's mind if anything; but nevertheless, he did that. So I'm thinking of changing my first name to Legislative. Then my name will be Senator Legislative Chambers, and I think that will be very, very appropriate. In this regard I am going to demonstrate what in my view a lawmaker ought to do. This in my view is bad legislation for reasons that I've given. So I'm going to fight it tooth and nail. I'm not going to do every bill like this but if I detect enough disregard for inmates and their welfare then I'm going to show a similar disregard for the bills of my colleagues. A bill is only words on a piece of paper. The paper feels no pain as far as we know. So if I do to your bill what I think I see you doing to inmates, don't even get upset. Nobody is put in discomfort. And you've got another chance to come back and try. And what you all ought to do is what the public wants you to do. All of you should get together and vote against me on everything, and I cannot do what I do. But you cannot do that because some of you were put here because the Governor went out to help you. Senator Kintner, when he was talking about his bill, Agenda 21, mentioned something about the way these people, whoever they are behind Agenda 21, these mysterious, shadowy, evil forces, if you don't do what they want, they'll run...they'll get you defeated when you run for office. And I started to say, well, then Governor Heineman is one of those people, because he helped get some people defeated for office and put other people in office. And here's the way that works. If on the outside I'm the Governor's chauffeur, then when he puts me in the Legislature I become the Governor's gofer. The hand that feeds control, we know this. We are politicians. I look at the way they cut not only President Obama, a black man, but went after his wife and his children. I've talked nine minutes? [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: You have 5 minutes, 50 seconds left, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, you said...you said what? [LB52]

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SENATOR COASH: You have 5 minutes, 45 seconds left, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, left. Thank you. I thought you said time. So if you were asking the time, I was going to say 10:58 a.m. But at any rate, I'm going to continue just like I am. And all these big shot politicians who run around here strutting and preening before the public, telling them I've got all these morals, I'm going to solve all the problems. And even if you send me to Washington, I will change Washington and they cannot change their own little city. And in some cases they can't change their minds and they think Nebraskans are so stupid. Maybe they're right. I'm not white. I don't really know how white people think except from a distance. But maybe they know that Nebraskans are so stupid that if one of them says I will go there and I'll change Washington, Nebraskans believe it. And you send them there to change Washington. They make fools out of you by the way they campaign, and they campaign in the way they think they can win. And my job is not to play that game of pretending to be something that I'm not or trying to cheese up to somebody because it makes me some difference what they think about me or how they feel toward me. If you feel the same way toward the downtrodden that I feel, then you're a friend of mine. If you don't, you're not necessarily a foe; you could just be uninformed and insensitive, and it's my job to try to sensitize you. But in the meantime, when these kind of bad bills come up, I intend to fight them. And I won't do it by reading recipes or reading from the phone book. I had mentioned how Aesop told stories supposedly. Adults are children of a little greater growth, but children are not miniature adults. Right now, in Omaha, there's a trial going on which I had wanted to attend. It's the trial of a white junior high school teacher, former teacher, from Nathan Hale, who engaged in a series of sexual assaults against a young...several young girls. And the OPS officialdom who knew about it did not report it to the authorities. It was reported to the authorities when the parents of one of the girls went to the police. He had been suspended three times over a several-year period because of these allegations, and he was never fired. They simply told him his contract would not be renewed. And when the heat got too great then he resigned. But OPS never fired him. Two of the girls who went to the principal at Nathan Hale were called liars by the principal and put out of school. Two young victims called liars and put out of school. There was no outrage in Omaha. As a matter of fact, the school board took a formal vote to endorse the way these teachers and administrators had mishandled that case. When the principal was asked how she felt, she said she did the right thing, called two of the victims liars and put them out of school. And it had a devastating effect on these two little girls. I talked to one of them and her family. She has never gotten over it. He's on trial now. There was no outrage among the ministers in Omaha. No outrage among the groups that supposedly care about victims. No outrage on the part of any of the Negro and African-American organizations. The NAACP said nothing. The Urban League said nothing. The Black Ministerial Alliance said nothing. And yet they get up and preach all of this righteousness. But when a real situation arises where our little girls are victimized, you know who the only one was who spoke out? The one who is

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speaking to you now. So I know what moral cowardice is from having observed it under the worst of circumstances. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it will continue. What is that expression? All that's needed for evil to triumph is that good men do nothing--and good women do nothing, and say nothing. And these bad things go on and go on. Then I have to sit on this floor and listen to people talking in flowery words about all kind of upstanding, noble notions. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, you've heard the opening to FA8. The floor is open for discussion. Those wishing to speak, Senators Chambers and Karpisek. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to pass for now. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Senator Karpisek, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I don't support Senator Chambers if he's trying to kill this bill, but it's just too much fun to pass up, to hop up and get involved a little bit. I do like a lot of the things that he's saying about listening to things, things not happening, people talking about what does and doesn't happen, and playing real fast and loose with the truth. I got a letter this morning about one of my hearings and someone not liking how they were treated in the hearing and that another person who testified didn't tell the truth; and they want to correct the record. Well, number one, you have to be present to win, so if you're worried about things like that, maybe you should show up to the hearing. Number two, if you're going to call someone else a liar, you better be telling the truth. And I've said it over and over and over again on this floor about people who come in and testify against bills, they're not under oath, and they think that they can just say whatever they want and it's the truth. It doesn't matter how many times we've proved them wrong. It doesn't matter how nice we've tried to be to them. They continue to not tell the truth. That's not the way I think things should work around here. But it happens. It doesn't only happen in hearing rooms, it doesn't only happen out in the Rotunda, but sometimes it happens in here. Probably not on purpose, of course, but it happens. But when I first came here, many people said all you have to do is lie to me once and you're done. I like that approach. You can give me the wrong information accidentally and then tell me afterwards: oh, sorry, I was wrong. That's okay. We all make mistakes. But if you're going to come and blatantly lie or make up your supposed facts? Forget it. You're done. And if you think that that's going to work here on the floor with 48 fellow senators, it's going to take 32 of your friends to do so. Again, I'm really not in agreement with Senator Chambers on this bill. He has his reasons for it and that's great. I wish that we could move a little faster

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but Senator Chambers has been here; he knows. He doesn't like us to move fast. Sometimes we do most too fast. Sometimes we move too slow. But I just had to pop up. This letter that I got today has me furious. I just want to call out, if you're pointing the finger you better look back, look yourself in the mirror, don't say that you're doing Christ's work by opposing gambling bills. Don't say that you're the only good person and everyone else is bad. I don't think that that's very Christian in the first place. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR KARPISEK: But if that's the way we want to play, we can do so. As Senator Chambers has said, we're all adults. If you're going to get your feelings hurt, then you better sit down and be quiet because it'll happen. Senator Chambers has schooled me before. He'll probably school me some more, and that's okay too. But be ready, if you're going to bring accusations, to defend them and be honest. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Karpisek, where in the constitution does it say a person cannot lie? Politicians do it all the time. Look at their campaigns. Where is there any law that says a person cannot come before a legislative committee and lie? That's as American as apple pie. Thicken that skin. Toughen up. He said something is not Christian. I don't even know what Christian means. Everybody is a Christian. The one who throws the switch to execute somebody is a Christian. The Pardons Board who will not give a stay of execution, they're Christians. Anybody can be a Christian. Anything can be a Christian. Catholics were Christians. They burned people alive at the stake. Do you know what they should have called the pope because he was for that? The Secretary of Stake...S-t-a-k-e. "Secretary of Stake". How do you want yours? Rare, medium rare, well-done? Burning people alive. Take the person who means the most to you and imagine that person being bound to a stake and wood stacked below them and set afire and all the Christians invited to witness it and have their orgasms. Because they found out that's what often happened and that's why some of those people did that and why they want to watch executions to this day. And don't act like you're shocked. That is a reality. So what is being a Christian? It doesn't mean anything. A bird can be a Christian. Well, I'm sorry, birds; they wouldn't be that by choice. But, Senator Karpisek, a person doesn't have to be a truth teller to call somebody else a liar. And the person who is a liar can be telling the truth when he calls somebody a liar. I'm befuddled as to why senators and other politicians are so sensitive and thin-skinned when you know that you've set yourself up to be a target. And if somebody says something that's not true, counter the falsehood with the truth. That's what freedom of speech is supposed to be about. In the marketplace of ideas, every notion has to be prepared to defend itself in

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that marketplace of ideas. You don't win by silencing people. If there are thoughtful people on the scene and they're the ones you want to reach, you silence the liar, the talebearer, by bringing forth the truth. And when you silence that person, it doesn't necessarily mean that sounds will not come out of that person's mouth in the form of words that are not true. You silence any ability that person has to mislead those who are thoughtful. But all you're going to do is try to talk louder than the one you say is not telling the truth, then both participants are disregarded. When we have hearings, people can come and say virtually anything they want to. I spend time interrogating people when they come before the Judiciary Committee or other committees of which I am a member, and if they say something that I disagree with, I try to make sure that they've said what I thought that they said. Then I will ask a series of questions designed to elicit answers which will bring to that person's mind the awareness that what he or she said was a misspeaking. I'll tell you what bothers me. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When an official, Senator Karpisek, or a high-ranking agency head will not attend a hearing, and then write a letter to the members of the committee and say I'm opposed to that bill, the letter ought to be torn up. An official is not going to come to the hearing to answer questions and defend his position, then he's going to write a letter to the committee members saying he disagrees. And that happened. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Karpisek, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Senator Chambers, you're right. It's not in the constitution anywhere that you have to tell the truth. If I were to write it, I might. I think we'd get away from a lot of silliness and people just doing things and making it the truth. And, Senator Chambers, I agree, hollering louder doesn't help, although I try. And you have to tell the truth, I also agree. But what I don't like is a hypocrite, someone who tells you what you should do but doesn't do it themselves. That is what really bothers me. I try very hard not to be a hypocrite. Probably don't always do it because you can look at things ten different ways and make an argument the way that works for you. Or someone as intelligent as Senator Chambers can make you start thinking different ways and almost change your mind sometimes. But if my point is if you're going to come and call people names, then you better be ready for what's going to come back at you. Thick skin, thin skin. This didn't hurt my feelings but it sure did aggravate me, which is what they try to do and they're very good at it. But that's okay. I can be an agitator too. I know what buttons to push, where to get someone in the eye. And again, if that's the way we want to go about things, we can do so. But one of the first people here that taught me the love of this institution was Senator Chambers, and I respect this institution more than to go around

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and call people names and point fingers at them and say, he was mean to me. Well, if you're going to come and lie, you better be ready for what happens. If you want to stand in front of my committee day after day after day and tell outright lies, never bring any fact when you're asked for it. Please back that up. No, nothing ever shows up, just a laugh. But then when things get tough, then we go to our big friends that write us all the checks and have names and that have money and probably help get people elected in this body too. I don't have anyone to run to like that nor do I want anyone like that. I'd like sometimes a few of you to stand with me and work on some things but not with me...or, I'm sorry, not behind me but with me. And I'd rather you don't get too far ahead of me either but sometimes that happens. I just again wanted to say a few things that I couldn't pass the few chances I have left to get a little time in with Senator Chambers because hopefully I'll be able to tell my grandchildren about that someday, and they'll say, oh yeah, we read about Senator Chambers in the history books. Was he really that mean? And I'll say, yes, he was. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR KARPISEK: He was the meanest man I ever met (laughter). But he really wasn't. He'd like us to think so. But I've also heard him say many times that no one will treat him better than he treats us, and I believe that and I've seen that. And even on the days when I would like to jump and yell and try to yell louder than Senator Chambers, there's still got to be the respect, and there is. So again, I don't support him on his motion here but I respect his stance. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Karpisek. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. This will be your closing. Excuse me, Senator Chambers. You're recognized. I retract my last statement. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I've learned patience and I knew if I waited long enough truth would prevail. I have to correct one thing Senator Karpisek said. He said he will tell his grandchildren about me and they'll say, oh, we know about Senator Chambers; we read about him in the history books. No, they'll say to Senator Karpisek, we read about him in this morning's paper. I'm not going anywhere (laughter). But to show that I don't forget what I start out to do, nobody asked me why I brought up the dandelions. But that opportunity to show patience gave me a chance to make it a object lesson. Dandelions taught me patience and taught me perseverance. I used to try to dig them up, and if you don't get all the root they're going to grow again. So I was talking to the dandelions and I asked, why is it that it's so hard to get rid of you, but a person can spend countless hours cultivating a flower and the least little adversity will kill it? The little dandelion voice said to me, ask Aesop. So Senator Karpisek, dandelions don't lie to you. They won't always say the answer. So I went and read some Aesop, and he was asked, why is it that weeds are stronger than cultivated plants? And Aesop said, the weeds are nature's natural children; the cultivated plants are her stepchildren. So these dandelions

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not only would grow back but they'd bring a cousin and an uncle, and where there was one yesterday there are three today. So I developed a respect for the dandelions. I was not going to try to eradicate them. By cutting off the flower you don't kill the dandelion. But that's what I would do to let them know that they're in a battle with me. But they never gave up, not ever. And everyday I go back out there, there would be more where I thought I had gotten rid of them. But there are little buds that will grow along with the flower, and you cut the flower and the bud just takes a signal and it's triggered and it opens up and it flowers also. So the patience came about by realizing that I'm going to be in this struggle all summer long, and a respect for nature came because nature teaches her children and equips them to survive in a hostile environment. And we can learn from that. So the dandelions taught me a lot. And other things teach me and I don't know whether they're talking to me or whether they've just caused my mind to open. And what I should have sense enough to arrive at through intellection, it takes a dandelion to trigger it. But in any case, I learned a lesson and I will gear my conduct to that lesson that I learned. And I'm trying to teach a lesson here this morning. Senator Karpisek said I can almost on occasion change somebody's mind, and on occasion I have managed to change a mind or two. But here I'm interested in changing conduct. The conduct I'm interested changing is reflected on that voting board. I want to change a red vote to a green vote if it's something I favor. I want to change a green vote to a red vote if it's something I'm opposed to, and I will do what the rules allow me to do to achieve that result. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And along the way I may learn something from my colleagues if they talk back to me. They may learn something from me if they listen. But I have the advantage. Nobody can make me so angry or annoyed that I will not listen. I learn from everybody--from everybody. So my advantage is that I'm going to always know more than everybody else because I listen to everybody. A lot of them won't listen to me at all. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. Now you may close. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment would strike the words "nonprofit corporation." Why did I not go into great length discussing the amendment? Because there is nothing that needs to be discussed that much. I do not think that these corporations should get this free labor and I'm going to have to fight this bill to try to prevent that from happening. I'm not going to do like this on every bill but here's what I will say: If this bill moves forward then I'm going to have to continue doing it to other bills to make it difficult for us to get to this bill again. And then if we get to it, I'm going to have to do it to bills in front of it to slow us down so we won't get to it again. Does it mean that much to you? Stopping it means that much to me. I don't care about

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any other bill on this floor. None of my bills are on this floor. They're all locked up in committee, but I'm going to spring them before it's over one way or the other. But if I don't, that's the way things work here, and I'm not going to get a heart attack because a bill that I have or several bills are locked up in committees. But I will demonstrate what can happen if I don't get my way. Other people have bills. Committees have bills and if they can do it to my bill then they shouldn't be surprised when I do it to their bill. Quid pro quo. If you put up the quid pro, I'll provide the quo. Quid pro quo. We'll work it together. And don't get offended with me. You don't want me offended at you, do you? I didn't think so. What is goose for the...what do they say? Sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. And that's the way I operate. I give it and I can take it. But I think I can take it better than the others on this floor because there's nobody pulling strings on me telling me I better do this or I better do that. I will do what I want to do in the way that I think I ought to do it when I think I ought to do it. And you'll find out what and when that is when I do it. But I try to give you enough hints and clues along the way so you know when I'm going to do it. Now here's my good friend Senator Wallman sitting in front of me. He could be angry at me if he wanted to, but he's not like that, because when I wasn't even in the Legislature I persuaded the Governor that a bill was bad and Senator Wallman agreed, and the bill was vetoed and I wasn't even in the Legislature. I used persuasion and brought conviction to the minds of people whose minds were open. But if somebody wants to play rough with me, I'm prepared. In this hand is the olive branch. Peace. Peace on earth, good will to everybody. But if you don't want to go for it, as said Jesus, and the NRA: the sword. I come not to bring peace; I come to bring a sword. Then they told this Jesus, who I'm quoting: but you're supposed to be the lamb of God. He said, you didn't read it all because I'm also (growl) the lion of Judah. Choose your poison: the olive branch or the sword; it's all the same to me. Thank you, Mr. President. And again, I'll ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There has been a request to place the house under call. The question before the body is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. [LB52]

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: The house is under call. All senators please return to the Chamber and record your presence. Those unexcused senators, please return. All unauthorized members please leave the floor. The house is under call. (Visitors introduced.) Senators Conrad, Ashford, Kintner, and Burke Harr, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. The house is under call. Senator Johnson, please return to your seat. The house is under call. Members, you've heard the closing to FA8. The question before the body is, shall FA8 be adopted? There has been a request for a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk, please read the roll. [LB52]

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 471-472.) 3 ayes, 35 nays, Mr.

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President on the amendment. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: FA8 is not adopted. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk, do you have a motion? [LB52]

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote taken with respect to FA8. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on your motion to reconsider. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I will begin by saying a few things more about the bill itself. Senator Christensen told us that some of the good people in his area asked him to get a bill like this passed by the Legislature. What did those good people want? They wanted free labor. Free labor in 2013. What else is happening in 2013? A President is sitting in the White House saying that the minimum wage should be raised. And these people come saying we want free labor and we're in a red state in Nebraska and we get what we want and we'll send it to that Legislature and they'll give it to us. They might get it but you all are going to pay. I don't work for free. I'm paid to do what I'm doing, \$12,000 a year before taxes, and I'm going to earn every penny of it. I believe in giving a good day's labor for my pay. And some of you thought when I was talking about how old I was yesterday, that I was preparing the way to stumble and fumble and act like I don't know where I am or what I'm talking about and be like maybe John Paul, the last pope, drooling and dribbling. More disrespect I've never seen. That old man half the time didn't know where he was. And these are realities that people can't confront. I used to talk to Jim Cavanaugh about it, that they ought to do something; don't make that old man a spectacle; don't let him be like a freak in a freak show. You trot him out and some people are waiting to see when he's going to keel over, when he is going to lose his thought altogether. They're just waiting, just like some people go to these car races to watch and see if there's going to be a horrendous crash. I heard people talking about the nobility of Benedict XVI stepping down. He's blind in one eye. He's losing his hearing. He's so frail his clothing won't fit him. He's got to go. There's no nobility. And did you read the news on why he wants to stay in the Vatican? So he will be immune from prosecution for the sex scandals that went on under him. And for you all who don't know, I followed that man's career. He was Cardinal Ratzinger, Joseph Ratzinger in Germany. And some of the worst child sexual abuse was occurring in Berlin while Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was there in Germany. Horrible sexual abuse of children in Ireland. And when some of the priests, some of the hierarchy wanted to do something about it, word came from the Vatican where Benedict XVI was, that they need to back off, leave that alone. The Vatican Bank laundering money. And this cannot be talked about? If I was talking about the Mafia, would you care? If I was talking about La Cosa Nostra, would you care? Well, the Catholic Church was doing what the Mafia and La Cosa Nostra wouldn't do. If their

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members were raping little boys, the Mafia would off them. They had higher standards than the Catholic Church hierarchy. And don't say they didn't know. There was an order in Rome where they taught people to be priests for America. And while those seminarians were there in Rome, they were being raped by priests. There was a fellow named Bernard Law who was a cardinal in Boston. He has the distinction of the worst, most widespread molestation sexually of little boys of any place in the country. And you know what John Paul did when the hounds of heaven were nipping at the robes of Bernard Law, the cardinal? He called him to Rome to chastise him? No. To put him in charge of the second most important basilica in Rome. Did you all know that? I've been interested and fascinated by the Catholic Church every since I went to Creighton, because they had a table full of Catholic encyclopedias and I read that stuff. And I read other works about what happened during the time of that church. So much is known about the tortures of the Inquisition because they had scribes who took down details just like the Nazis did when they were conducting the Holocaust. And the very detailed notes that those technicians among the Nazis took down while they were slaughtering Jews and other people, not just Jews, were used in the Nuremberg war crimes trials. And that's what can condemn the Catholic Church now, what their minions wrote. And something you all probably didn't know about: They would spread-eagle a woman on the floor and be naked, begin to stack stones on her and then have sex with her. Written. Written down, not by me. Written by them what they did. It's quiet now, huh? All quiet on the western front. Well, to me, because a man is elevated, doesn't make him anything other than a man, and he was not a good man. The worst scandals occurred on his watch. When Jesse Jackson, a man whom I respected, gave a woman a baby out of wedlock, I was harder on Jesse Jackson than anybody else. They said, how can you say that about him? I said, he's a rat. Don't say you're a preacher; just be a politician. Politicians do that. You going to preach to other people about what they ought to do and then you're going to give this woman a baby out of wedlock, and I'm not supposed to say anything? You must be crazy. Would your Jesus have sat back and said nothing? When the big shots brought a woman to him, the big shots, heads of the church of that day, and said, Lord, you said you came to fulfill the law. This woman was an adulteress; she was taken in the very act. And Jesus probably said, although it's not written...well, you all don't know when yin and yang is right now because that's to come later, but it takes two hands to clap. It's takes two to tango. It takes two to commit adultery. You've got the woman; where's the man? They didn't bring the man, Senator Lathrop. Just brought the woman. And they said, what are you doing to do with her? And Jesus said, what do you want me to do with her? Well, you said you came to fulfill the law. So Jesus would say, well, tell me what the law says. Somebody who commits adultery should die. And this woman was taken in the very act. Did you say time? Oh. So the only time that there was indication that Jesus ever wrote anything was it says he stooped down and wrote on the ground, and there are all kind of fanciful things that people say that he wrote. But his statement everybody knows. And they could have asked him, what are you going to do? He said we'll carry out the law. They said, okay, let's get with it, Jesus. And Jesus said: Let him that is among you without sin, you cast

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the first stone. No stones fell that day. And the woman, cowering as women have always cowered before brutal, vicious, cruel men, huddled on the ground, sweat makes her hair cling to her face, all alone before this man whom people say is crazy. And if he's crazy he's certainly going to go along with the mob because that's what you have here, and religious people have led the mob throughout history. But then she opened one eye. Could she believe what's she's hearing? He's telling those people to stone her and she braced herself and clinched her teeth and steeled her nerve waiting for that first stone to splat against her head. And she felt nothing. So she wondered, am I dreaming? [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And she opened her eyes and looked around. And I don't know what this meant but it says something like, all those people standing around were convicted in their heart and one by one they began to disappear and nobody was there but Jesus and the woman. And Jesus looked around and she opened her eyes...and I'll finish this if I get a chance to speak again. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, you've heard the opening to the motion to reconsider. Senator Chambers, you are recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. So this poor, pitiful, alone woman heard this man who had put all these powerful religious people to flight. The chief priest, the little priests, all of them who dragged her here to be killed were gone. Now Jesus did not say that they lied when they said that a person caught in adultery should be stoned to death. He didn't say that's not what the law says. But he amended the law in the way that I try to get my Christian brothers and sisters here, and if there are any Jewish people I don't know, but if they are I want them to listen up too, and you all help me amend this law. What was Jesus' amendment? He that is without sin among you, you cast the first stone. You inject the needle. Where are you Christians? Hypocrites is what Senator Karpisek said he hates. Hypocrites, you believe in Jesus. What did he tell you when you're executing capital punishment? Which one of you is without sin? I don't talk about sin. You all are the ones who bring that tripe up. You don't believe in it either. But anyway, he amended the law and said: Woman, where are those thine accusers? She said, I see none. He said, then go in peace because I don't accuse either. And then he might have added: I did come to fulfill the law but I came talking about a higher law, not one that says you can't work on the Sabbath; not one that says you cannot wear garments of different fabrics; not one that said a woman is unclean. That's not what I'm about. And the law that I'm bringing says: Thou shalt not kill; and that's a higher law and that's the one that I came to fulfill. So there will be no stone throwing today. There will be no woman considered unclean today. There will be no person killed today. And why is that? Because Jesus is on the scene. And you know what they have to do with people like Jesus? They had to get rid of him so they lynched him and they did it by way of the

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law. And maybe had I been a Roman senator, I would have been able to abolish the death penalty and Jesus would not have died, convicted and sentenced by a kangaroo court, the vicious hypocrites of the kind that Senator Karpisek does not like. And you know how Jesus described them? All you religious hypocrites, you bind burdens heavy and grievous to be borne, and you put them on other men's shoulders and you won't touch that with one of your little fingers; and you call yourself the representatives of my father; you don't know my father. That's what Jesus would have said if I had written the book, but I didn't write the book. But he did talk to the hypocrites one time and he said, why do you call me lord, lord, when you don't do what I say? [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's you alls religion. That's what those people who come up there every morning are talking about. You all don't know what they're saying. You all don't know what they're saying. It doesn't mean anything to you all? You mean to tell me that all this holy talk took better root in the heart of a dark prince, the prince of darkness, the dark prince who's going to hell if there is a hell? It took root in me more than you? It found better ground from which to spring forth and produce fruit than the ground in your hearts, your Christian, born-again saved hearts, following the path of Jesus Christ? And I see it as a myth. But I saw some value in it also. Was that my third time, Mr. President? [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, some people act like they think we've been in church this morning. When we were voting for Chairpersons, there was something that looked like a wooden plate that was carried around by I think Assistant Clerk Dick Brown. Well, I think since we've been in church, we ought to convert that into an offering plate and we ought to have him walk amongst the congregation and everything we collect we will turn over to a charity of my choice. And that will be a no-kill animal shelter which is going to get all of what little money I had donated to me when I was going through the notions of running for reelection. But I did tell people that whatever they gave me would be turned over to a place called Hearts United for Animals in Auburn, Nebraska. They take care of animals who have also suffered at the hands of Christians. I've been there before and I've seen little bitty dogs, one eye gone, dogs where they tried to breed them and that's all they tried to do until the female dogs' internal organs are destroyed, teeth rotted out; they run a pipe down the throat so that the dog cannot bark. And these are the animals that Hearts United for Animals will take in and nourish and nurture back to health if they can. And if somebody wants to adopt one of those animals, they don't just come in and say I'm going to do it. They have to be checked to see if they are suitable because these are your God's creatures; your God's creatures; you all who are more holy than I am, who know more

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about religion than I know; who can quote more scripture than I can quote and then do more hellish harm to people than I would ever dream of in my worst nightmare. What was said about England, they have the most humane laws on the face of the earth and the most barbaric punishments. Talk is cheap. You want good words, let me give each one of you a dictionary and you'll find every noble word ever written in English in that dictionary. That's where you can find the words you want to hear and you string them together. I'm looking for conduct and I'm looking at conduct. I can't make you do anything. But if I can touch your conscience, your conscience will make you straighten up and fly right. My time is almost up, not on this earth--I don't want to disappoint some people--but as far as this morning. But what I can do, and when we get into all-day sessions you'll see it, I'm still strong enough...Senator Karpisek said I'm the meanest man he ever met, and it's that meanness that keeps me going. I feed on it. It makes me strong. It gives me tenacity, relentlessness. And I will never quit and I will go from morning until midnight if necessary. And you know why they cut off at midnight if they go that far? If you go one minute past, that's the beginning of another legislative day, and they will not be like me and continue on after that and stay here. They've got to go eat with the lobbyists. They've got to do drink with the lobbyists. They've got to go raise money from the lobbyists. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: One minute. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And here is the man that these white people out in western Nebraska and the rest of the state said is unfit to be here. I didn't do any of it. I didn't take the lobbyists' money. I didn't drink their liquor. I didn't eat their food. I didn't go to their lunches. When they brought the trough over here to feed the hogs, I wouldn't go in there and eat any of it. Was I better than that? You better believe it. But why did I not leave? Because I had more pearls to cast. And if you don't know the significance of that, look it up; not in your Funk and Wagnalls, in your "Holly Bible." I will cast my pearls where I want to, despite what that fellow called Jesus said you ought not do. He runs you all. He doesn't run me and he doesn't do a very good job of running you all. Oh, how he must cry. Crying right now, that's why he's going to send a storm here Thursday. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Time, Senator. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: See, here. Thank you. [LB52]

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Speaker Adams for an announcement. [LB52]

SPEAKER ADAMS: Members, a couple of things. First of all, tomorrow, remember we will begin at 9 a.m. and we're going back to Select File and we will probably plan to end the morning around 11:00 tomorrow. That should give you time to get where you need

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to go, and we'll come back to General File on Friday and we will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday. And right now, remember we're still planning to have committee hearings on Friday. We'll continue to watch the weather. The other thing I wanted to make mention of to you is on Monday I will begin taking requests for Speaker as well as committee and individual senator priorities. You can begin to turn those in. There should be a format coming out to you, and the deadline for those, the Speaker priority bills, any requests there need to be in my hands by the end of the day, 5 p.m., on March 14. And the committee and senator priority designations need to be in my office by adjournment on March 15. And that is all coming out to you in the form of a letter. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Speaker Adams. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB21 as correctly engrossed. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee reports LB56 to General File with amendments, signed by Senator Avery. Health and Human Services reports LB42 to General File with committee amendments, signed by Senator Campbell. Banking, Commerce and Insurance, chaired by Senator Gloor, reports LB59 to General File with amendments; and Senator Dubas, as Chair of Transportation and Telecommunications reports LB399 to General File. I have a Reference report referring certain gubernatorial appointees; a new resolution (re LR59) by Senator Schumacher; and Senator Adams offers LR60. Both of those resolutions will be laid over. I have an amendment to be printed to LB484. (Legislative Journal pages 472-476.) [LB21 LB56 LB42 LB59 LB399 LR59 LR60 LB484]

And, Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Price would move to adjourn the body until Thursday morning, February 21, at 9 a.m.

SENATOR COASH: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members you've heard the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.