

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

[LB40 LB43 LB45 LB52 LB70 LB88 LB94 LB122 LB142 LB142A LB149 LB157 LB159
LB160 LB168 LB177 LB180 LB181 LB190 LB211 LB220 LB220A LB241 LB260 LB261
LB269 LB271 LB272 LB279 LB298 LB312 LB313 LB352 LB430 LR44 LR45]

PRESIDENT FOLEY PRESIDING

PRESIDENT FOLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR GAIL MADSON OF THE BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH IN WAHOO, NEBRASKA, SENATOR JOHNSON'S DISTRICT. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR MADSON: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, PASTOR MADSON. I CALL TO ORDER THE TWENTY-FIRST DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

ASSISTANT CLERK: THERE IS A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

ASSISTANT CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS THIS MORNING.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

ASSISTANT CLERK: THERE ARE, MR. PRESIDENT. YOUR COMMITTEE ON ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB159, LB279, LB220, LB220A, LB157, LB149, LB168, LB40, LB43, LB88, LB190 AND LB430 TO SELECT FILE, IN SOME CASES WITH THE E&R AMENDMENTS ATTACHED. I HAVE A CONFIRMATION REPORT FROM THE RETIREMENT COMMITTEE. THAT WILL BE LAID OVER. AND THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE AT THIS TIME. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 401-402.) [LB159 LB279 LB220 LB220A LB157 LB149 LB168 LB40 LB43 LB88 LB190 LB430]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WHILE THE LEGISLATURE IS IN SESSION AND CAPABLE OF TRANSACTING BUSINESS, I PROPOSE TO SIGN AND DO HEREBY SIGN LR44 AND LR45. SENATORS, THE COOKIES ON OUR DESKS THIS MORNING WERE HANDED OUT TO CELEBRATE SENATOR MATT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

WILLIAMS'S BIRTHDAY. THANKING SENATOR WILLIAMS AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY. WE'LL NOW PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA, GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LR44 LR45]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB269 WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HUGHES. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14TH OF THIS YEAR. REFERRED TO THE BANKING, COMMERCE INSURANCE COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. (AM68, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 331.) [LB269]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB269. [LB269]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, FELLOW SENATORS. LB269 IS A VERY SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD BILL THAT WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY THE NEBRASKA ABSTRACTERS BOARD OF EXAMINERS. THIS BILL WOULD REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE ABSTRACTERS BOARD OF EXAMINERS PREPARE, PUBLISH, AND DISTRIBUTE A ROSTER OF ALL THE REGISTERED ABSTRACTERS IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. CURRENTLY, THEY COLLECT THE NAMES AND PLACES OF BUSINESSES OF ABSTRACTERS WHICH WAS THEN MAILED TO ALL THE REGISTERED ABSTRACTERS BIENNIALLY. AFTER THIS BILL WAS INTRODUCED, THE TITLE COMPANY CAME TO ME AND REQUESTED SOME LANGUAGE THAT BE INCLUDED THAT WOULD REQUIRE THE ABSTRACTERS BOARD OF EXAMINERS TO MAINTAIN AND UPDATE A PRINTABLE ROSTER THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE ON THE BOARD'S WEB SITE. I ASKED THE BANKING AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE, INSURANCE COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER ADDING AN AMENDMENT. SO I APPRECIATE THAT THEY OFFERED AM68 AS A COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. SINCE THE ABSTRACTERS BOARD IS A GOVERNMENT AGENCY, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THE ROSTER OF CURRENTLY LICENSED ABSTRACTERS BE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. SINCE WE ARE ELIMINATING THE REQUIREMENT THAT A HARD COPY OF THE ABTRACTER'S ROSTER BE MAILED TO EACH ABTRACTER, THIS WOULD ADD A PROVISION THAT THE ROSTER BE AVAILABLE ON-LINE IN A PRINTABLE FORMAT. THIS WOULD ALLOW THE INFORMATION TO BE AVAILABLE TO ABSTRACTERS, THE TITLE INDUSTRY, AND INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THE ABSTRACTERS BOARD ALREADY HAS THEIR WEB SITE IN PLACE, THE ABILITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO SEARCH BY A LICENSED OR COMPANY NAME FOR NAMES OF ABSTRACTERS. I WOULD APPRECIATE A YES VOTE ON THIS AMENDMENT AND ON THE BILL. THANK YOU. [LB269]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS FROM THE BANKING, COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

COMMITTEE. SENATOR SCHEER, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. [LB269]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB269 WERE ADOPTED BY THE BANKING, COMMERCE AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE AT THE SUGGESTION OF THE BILL'S INTRODUCER, SENATOR HUGHES. THERE WERE CONCERNS RAISED TO SENATOR HUGHES THAT THE BILL, AS INTRODUCED, LEAVES THE ABSTRACTERS BOARD OF EXAMINERS WITH NO DIRECTION AT ALL FROM THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING COMPILING AND DISTRIBUTING THE ROSTER OF REGISTERED ABSTRACTERS. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS RESTORES THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE ROSTER SHALL BE PREPARED BY THE BOARD. THEN THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT INSERTED A NEW REQUIREMENT THAT THE ROSTER SHALL BE MAINTAINED AND UPDATED AT LEAST ANNUALLY ON THE BOARD'S WEB SITE IN A PRINTABLE FORMAT. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS MAKE NO CHANGE TO THE GREEN COPY'S ELIMINATION OF THE REQUIREMENT THAT A HARD COPY OF THE ROSTER BE SENT TO ALL REGISTERED ABSTRACTERS AND THAT HARD COPIES BE FURNISHED TO THE PUBLIC AT REQUEST AT COST. I URGE THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB269. THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB269]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SEEING NO ONE WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. AND SENATOR SCHEER WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB269. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED WHO CARE TO? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB269]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB269]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB269 AS AMENDED. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE, AND SENATOR HUGHES WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB269 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB269]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB269]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB269 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB269]

ASSISTANT CLERK: NEXT BILL, LB94, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SMITH. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 8TH, REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB94]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SMITH, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB94. [LB94]

SENATOR SMITH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. LB94 WAS REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AND A PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD ON JANUARY 27TH. THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO THE BILL AND IT WAS ADVANCED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE COMMITTEE. LB94 WOULD PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR COUNTY TREASURERS TO ISSUE A TITLE WITH A LIEN RECORDED FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE THAT IS SOLD IN NEBRASKA BUT THAT IS IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM THE STATE BY AN OUT-OF-STATE BUYER. WHEN A NEBRASKA RESIDENT PURCHASES A VEHICLE TODAY IN THIS STATE AND THE VEHICLE IS FINANCED, A NOTATION IS MADE ON THE TITLE THAT THERE IS A LIEN, AND THIS IS CALLED A PERFECTION OF THE LIEN. THE PERFECTION OF THE LIEN IS GENERALLY REQUIRED BY STATE AND FEDERAL LAW TO PROTECT THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE LENDER. HOWEVER, WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL FROM A DIFFERENT STATE PURCHASES A VEHICLE IN NEBRASKA, THE TITLE IS NOT ISSUED UNTIL THAT PERSON REGISTERS THE VEHICLE IN THEIR HOME STATE. THIS LEAVES A PERIOD OF TIME WHEN THE LENDER'S INTEREST IS NOT SECURED AND IT LEAVES ALL PARTIES INVOLVED, THE LENDER, THE DEALER, AND THE CUSTOMER VULNERABLE. LB94 WOULD CLOSE THAT GAP. IT ALLOWS A LOCAL COUNTY TREASURER TO ISSUE A TEMPORARY NEBRASKA TITLE TO AN OUT-OF-STATE CAR BUYER WITH THE LIEN NOTED. THAT PERSON WOULD THEN TAKE THE NEBRASKA TITLE TO THEIR RESIDENT STATE AND PRESENT IT ALONG WITH OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS WHEN REGISTERING THE VEHICLE. A SIMILAR PROCESS IS USED IN IOWA AND HAS PROVEN TO BE SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE IN PROTECTING THE LENDER, THE DEALER, AND THE CUSTOMER. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO LB94, COLLEAGUES. I ASK YOU TO ADVANCE THIS BILL TO SELECT FILE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB94]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SMITH. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB94. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SMITH, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE. AND SENATOR SMITH WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

IS THE ADVANCE OF LB94 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB94]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB94]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB94 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB94]

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB122 IS LEGISLATION INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHUMACHER. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME JANUARY 9, REFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, PLACED ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB122]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB122. [LB122]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. LB122 WAS ON GENERAL FILE LAST YEAR HAVING BEEN ADVANCED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, BUT IT WAS PATIENTLY WAITING FOR CONSENT CALENDAR AND THEN WE GOT TALKING ABOUT FURRY CREATURES THAT LIVE AROUND CHADRON. IT AGAIN WAS ADVANCED ON AN 8 TO 0 VOTE THIS YEAR. IT DEALS WITH UTILITY-TYPE VEHICLES. THINK OF THESE THINGS AS KIND OF MINIATURIZED JEEPS THAT PARTICULARLY YOUNGER RETIRED PEOPLE LIKE TO DRIVE AROUND TO GO DOWN TO THE HARDWARE STORE AND GET A NEW RAKE OR TO BREAKFAST WITH THE OTHER BOYS, AND THEY ARE VERY SOPHISTICATED LITTLE DEVICES--HEADLIGHTS, HORNS--JUST LIKE THE REAL THING ONLY SMALLER. CITIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO LET THEM OPERATE ON CITY STREETS SUBJECT TO WHATEVER RESTRICTIONS THAT THE LAW AND THE CITIES IMPOSE, AND THEY ARE OPERATED ON CITY STREETS. BUT THERE IS ONE WRINKLE IN THE WAY THE LAW WAS SET UP. PERHAPS IT WAS AN OVERSIGHT, PERHAPS IT WAS A LONG-FORGOTTEN REASON. BUT THERE'S A RULE THAT SAYS THESE DEVICES, THESE LITTLE UTVS, CANNOT CROSS OR DRIVE AROUND ON A FOUR-LANE ROAD. THERE'S PROBABLY GOOD REASON FOR THAT. BUT IT CREATES A PROBLEM BECAUSE IF YOU LIVE IN A SUBDIVISION WHICH HAS ONLY ONE ACCESS TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AND THE HARDWARE STORE AND THE BOYS AT BREAKFAST, AND THAT ACCESS IS A FOUR-LANE ROAD, YOU CAN'T LEAVE HOME AND YOU HAVE TO SIT AND WATCH ALL YOUR FRIENDS DRIVE AROUND ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FOUR-LANE ROAD. THIS IS A VERY SIMPLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION. IT SAYS THAT IF AT THAT INTERSECTION THERE IS A STOPLIGHT AND IF THE CITY, OR COUNTY IF IT'S NOT IN THE CITY LIMITS, PERMITS IT,

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

THAT YOU CAN BE AUTHORIZED TO CROSS THAT INTERSECTION WITH YOUR UTV RIGHT ALONGSIDE OF THE FOLKS ON BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS, TRICYCLES AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT CAN LEGALLY CROSS THAT INTERSECTION WITH THE LIGHT. THE RESTRICTION IS, THE CITY HAS GOT TO APPROVE CROSSING AT THAT INTERSECTION, YOU GOT TO CROSS WITH THE LIGHT AND CONFORM TO THE LAWS IN ALL OTHER RESPECTS WITH REGARDING TO THE OPERATION OF THAT UTV. PASSAGE OF THIS BILL WOULD MAKE QUITE A FEW OF THE BOYS WHO ARE RETIRED AND WHO ENJOY THESE VEHICLES HAPPY IN MY AREA, AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A LOCAL ISSUE, BUT I'VE BEEN GETTING CALLS FROM ALL AROUND THE STATE SAYING, GEE, WE'D LIKE TO GO PLAY WITH THE REST OF THE BOYS TOO. SO THIS IS A VERY SIMPLE BILL. IT COMPORTS WITH PUBLIC SAFETY. THESE THINGS ARE CERTAINLY NO MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE OTHER TYPES OF VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIAN THINGS THAT CAN USE THESE INTERSECTIONS. I WOULD ASK YOUR VOTE FOR LB122. THANK YOU. [LB122]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB122. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB122]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. WOULD SENATOR SCHUMACHER YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB122]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB122]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: YES, I WILL. [LB122]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. MY UNDERSTANDING IS THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE A STOP-AND-GO LIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION THAT THEY'RE GOING TO CROSS ON, NOT MERELY A STOP SIGN? IS THAT INTENT? [LB122]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THAT'S THE INTENT HERE. IT'S A STOPLIGHT CROSSING WITH THE STOPLIGHT THAT ASSURES YOU HAVE TIME TO GET ACROSS JUST AS IF YOU WERE RIDING A BICYCLE OR SOMETHING. [LB122]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: WE DON'T RESTRICT BICYCLES OR ANYTHING ELSE TO ONLY STOPLIGHTS. WHY DO WE NOT ALLOW THESE UTVS, WELL, IN MOST CASES MOVE FASTER THAN A BICYCLE IS EVER GOING, TO NOT TO CROSS OUT IN THE COUNTRY WHERE MOST OF THEM ARE USED FOR AG PURPOSES? WHY CAN THEY NOT CROSS A FOUR-LANE HIGHWAY WHERE THERE'S MERELY A STOP SIGN? [LB122]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: WELL, MERELY A STOP SIGN ISN'T COVERED BY THIS BILL. IT MAY BE SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE WOULD WANT TO BRING A BILL FOR IN THE FUTURE. BUT I DON'T THINK THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE HEARD THE ARGUMENTS ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ON WHETHER A STOP SIGN WOULD BE JUST AS HARMLESS AS THIS IS. [LB122]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: WHAT ABOUT AN AMENDMENT? [LB122]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: WE COULD DO ONE ON SELECT FILE IF YOU LIKE. [LB122]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I WILL VISIT WITH YOU AND THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT. THANK YOU. [LB122]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU. [LB122]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATORS BLOOMFIELD AND SCHUMACHER. IS THERE FURTHER DEBATE ON LB122? SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON LB122. SENATOR SCHUMACHER WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB122 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB122]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 33 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB122, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB122]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB122 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB122]

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB52, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHEER. (TITLE READ.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 8, REFERRED TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB52. [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I BRING LB52 TO THE FLOOR THIS MORNING. IT IS A VERY SMALL BILL. IT ACTUALLY JUST ADDS A SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICT TO THE LIST OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS THAT WOULD NOT BE PAYING SALES TAX. THERE IS ALREADY A QUITE EXTENSIVE LIST OF THOSE THAT HAVE RECEIVED THIS EXTENSION. I WOULD ADD...FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE SANITARY

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

DRAINAGE DISTRICT, IT ESSENTIALLY IN SOME COMMUNITIES WHERE THEY ORIGINALLY STARTED FLOOD CONTROL THEY PUT SOME BIG DITCHES THROUGH THE COMMUNITY THAT WOULD MOVE WATER AROUND BEFORE WE HAD DIKES AND FLOOD DIVERSIONS. THERE ARE DISTRICTS IN SOME AREAS, RATHER THAN THE CITY BEING RESPONSIBLE, THEY HAD FORMED A DRAINAGE DISTRICT THAT ARE USUALLY CONTROLLED BY A THREE-MEMBER BOARD. EVER SINCE THEIR EXISTENCE, THEY HAVE BEEN PAYING SALES TAX. IT SEEMS SORT OF FRUITLESS TO BE PAYING SALES TAX THAT GOES TO THE STATE WHEN WE'RE PAYING LOCAL TAXES ON A PROPERTY BASIS TO SUPPORT THESE ENTITIES. WE'RE SORT OF PAYING TAX ON MONEY THAT'S ACTUALLY GOING TO GO BACK TO THE STATE WHEN IT WAS LOCAL DOLLARS, LOCAL TAX DOLLARS BEING EXPENDED. I THINK IT'S A NATURAL EXTENSION OF WHAT WE'RE DOING ALREADY IN RELATIONSHIP TO, FOR EXAMPLE, RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS OR AIRPORT AUTHORITIES AND SOME OF THE OTHERS. SO IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, AND I GUESS TO THE EXTENT OF NOT BEING A BIG DEAL, IF ANY OF YOU HAVE LOOKED AT THE FISCAL NOTE, THE FISCAL NOTE ON THIS IS SO SMALL THAT THE ANALYSIS CAME BACK WHERE THEY COULDN'T EVEN PLACE A NUMBER THAT IT WAS SO MINIMAL. AND COMPARING THAT TO, FOR EXAMPLE, SENATOR HUGHES'S BILL WAS A SAVINGS THEY HAD FIGURED OUT AT ABOUT \$2,000 A YEAR. THIS, THEY COULDN'T EVEN DISTINGUISH THAT IT WOULD EVEN HAVE THAT MUCH SAVED. IT ESSENTIALLY IS NEUTRAL, IT IS SO SMALL. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK YOUR SUPPORT OF LB52 AND WOULD BE WILLING TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT MIGHT HAVE COME FORWARD. THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU HEARD SENATOR SCHEER'S OPENING. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING. IT'S ABOUT PROVIDING TAX RELIEF, RELEASE OF SALE AND USE TAXES FOR FLOOD CONTROL. IT'S NOT UNIQUE TO OUR RURAL AREAS. IN OMAHA, WE'RE FACING THE EXACT SAME SITUATION. WE HAVE SEWER SEPARATION AND IT'S COSTING US BILLIONS UPON BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. ANYWHERE FROM \$2 TO \$4 BILLION. AND SENATOR TOM WHITE WHO PRECEDED ME, SENATOR HEATH MELLO, BROUGHT BILLS TO DO JUST WHAT THIS DID FOR MUD. LET ME RESTATE THAT. IT'S NOT MUD. IT'S FOR THE CITY OF OMAHA WHO PAYS FOR THAT, BUT IT'S COLLECTED THROUGH YOUR WATER UTILITY BILL. TO SAY, HEY, WE'RE TAX EXEMPT AND IT WAS REJECTED BY THIS BODY BECAUSE, QUOTE, IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE. WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DO IT, WE HAVE BETTER PRIORITIES. I HAVE AN AMENDMENT HERE THAT WOULD INCLUDE THE CITY OF OMAHA TO GET THE SAME TAX BREAKS THAT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ARE OCCURRING RIGHT NOW WITH LB52. I'M NOT GOING TO PUT THE AMENDMENT IN. I MIGHT SAVE IT FOR SELECT. BUT, FOLKS, YOU SIT THERE AND SAY, FEEL SORRY FOR ME, I'M A FARMER, I PAY TOO MUCH IN PROPERTY TAX, AND YOU DO. I'M NOT GOING TO FIGHT YOU THERE. EVERYONE PAYS TOO MUCH IN TAXES. BUT THIS IS REAL TAX THAT WE HAVE TO PAY IN OMAHA AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE THE BIGGEST BUSINESS OR THE SMALLEST, POOREST PERSON, WE'VE HAD A HUGE, ASTRONOMICAL INCREASE, NEARLY DOUBLING OF THE COST OF OUR WATER. THAT'S SOMETHING MOST BASIC TO OUR SURVIVAL AS A SOCIETY, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO GO WITHOUT FOOD SO THEY CAN HAVE WATER. AND WE AS A BODY HAVE DECIDED THAT THEY'RE NOT IMPORTANT. NOW IF YOU'RE A LARGE MANUFACTURER AND YOU USE A LOT OF WATER AND YOU HAVE A LOT OF CLOUT, YOU CAN SIT DOWN WITH THE CITY, HIRE A MEDIATOR, AND NEGOTIATE FOR LOWER RATES. BUT THE POOREST IN OUR SOCIETY CAN'T AFFORD THAT. AND SO AS A RESULT THEY'RE BEING FORCED TO PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR THEIR WATER, AND WE'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING. WE'RE HELPING THE RURAL GUY WITH THE FLOODING, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO FLOODING IN OMAHA WE, AS A BODY, HAVE STOOD UP AND NOT JUST DONE NOTHING BUT WE'VE SAID, NO, YOU DON'T DESERVE IT. I SUPPORT LB52, BUT I JUST WANT IT ON THE RECORD, FOLKS, IT'S DAY--WHAT DAY ARE WE ON--21, AND I'M GOING TO PULL IT OUT. WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER. IF YOU THINK THIS IS GOOD POLICY FOR OUR RURAL FRIENDS, I THINK IT'S GOOD POLICY FOR THE CITY OF OMAHA AND OUR SEWER SEPARATION AND ALSO FOR PLATTSMOUTH WHO'S GOING THROUGH THE EXACT SAME SITUATION. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: GOOD MORNING, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR SCHEER IF HE WOULD TAKE A QUESTION. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: CERTAINLY, THANK YOU. [LB52]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: SENATOR SCHEER, HOW MANY SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICTS ARE THERE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: VERY FEW. I CANNOT GIVE YOU AN EXACT NUMBER. THOSE ARE LOCALS. THIS WAS BROUGHT TO ME...NORFOLK DOES HAPPEN TO HAVE ONE. I'M NOT SURE, I THINK SOME PERHAPS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

UNDER THE AUSPICE OF THE COMMUNITIES AS TIME HAS MOVED ON. WE JUST SIMPLY STILL HAVE A SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICT IN THE CITY OF NORFOLK. [LB52]

SENATOR HILKEMANN SENATOR, WHEN I WAS LOOKING AT TRYING TO GET SOME DEFINITION ON THESE, THESE CAN BE AS SMALL AS JUST A MATTER OF A FEW ACRES TO HUNDREDS OF ACRES, AM I CORRECT? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: THEY COULD BE. MOST OF THEM ARE INTENDED OR WERE BUILT AS DRAINAGE GULCHES THROUGH COMMUNITIES OR AROUND COMMUNITIES. AND ESSENTIALLY WHAT THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS DO IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT GROUND IS MAINTAINED AND MORE EXPRESSLY MOWED SO THAT WHEN WATER DOES GO INTO THESE DITCHES IT'S NOT HOLDING THE WATER UP FROM A PRESSURE STANDPOINT OR NOT COLLECTING DEBRIS AS IT'S MOVING DOWN THAT WOULD CAUSE ESSENTIALLY A DAM THAT WOULD STOP THE WATER FROM FLOWING DOWN. [LB52]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: OKAY. SENATOR, WHO CONTROLS THESE SANITARY DISTRICTS? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: THEY'RE ELECTED. IN OUR CASE, IT'S AN ELECTED THREE-PERSON BOARD. AND I'M NOT SURE THEY'RE CALLED COMMISSIONERS. THEY MAY JUST BE A BOARD MEMBER, TO CORRECT A COMMISSIONER STATEMENT, BUT I THINK THEY'RE JUST CONSIDERED BOARD MEMBERS. [LB52]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN AND SCHEER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATION, IS SENATOR BURKE HARR STILL ON THE PREMISES? IF SO, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF HE WILL YIELD TO A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR BURKE HARR, WOULD YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: I AM ON THE PREMISES AND I WILL YIELD. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR HARR, YOUR PRESENTATION WAS RIGHT ON POINT, AND I WAS HOPING SOMEBODY ELSE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE SO

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

THAT IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT I AM THE ONLY ONE AWARE OF THESE KIND OF MATTERS. WHY ARE YOU NOT OFFERING YOUR AMENDMENT AT THIS POINT? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: GOOD QUESTION. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I ALWAYS ASK GOOD QUESTIONS AND I APPRECIATE YOUR ACKNOWLEDGMENT, (LAUGHTER) YOUNGSTER. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I HADN'T DONE MY DUE DILIGENCE PRIOR TO READING THE BILL. I DIDN'T READ IT THOROUGHLY SOON ENOUGH, AND I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO RUN IT THROUGH THE TRYOUTS. I JUST TALKED TO SENATOR SCHEER THIS MORNING ABOUT MY CONCERNS, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO BLINDSIDE THE SENATOR. I DON'T KNOW EVEN IF THE CITY OF OMAHA WOULD SUPPORT ME IN BRINGING AN AMENDMENT. I KNOW I'VE TALKED TO SOME OTHER UTILITIES AND THEY AREN'T IN SUPPORT OF ME BRINGING AN AMENDMENT, SO. THE MUD BOARD SAYS THEY DON'T WANT ME TO BRING IT AT THIS POINT. THEY'RE WORKING ON OTHER WAYS TO HELP US IN OMAHA. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, WHEN THEY SAY THEY'RE WORKING ON SOMETHING TO HELP US, WHO IS EMBRACED BY THAT WORD "US"? DO THEY MEAN THE PEOPLE THAT YOU MENTIONED WHO ARE PAYING HIGHER WATER BILLS? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THAT IS THE HOPE. SO THE IDEA IS WE'LL DO SOMETHING THAT'S MORE FOCUSED AT THE LOW END RATHER THAN JUST PROVIDING A TAX BREAK THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE PASSED ON TO THE LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHO FEEL THIS INCREASE IN FEES THE MOST. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A BRITISH BIRD NAMED DUSTY SPRINGFIELD? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: NO. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT'S A LADY. SHE WAS IMPRESSED BY THE SINGERS AND MUSICIANS WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH MOTOWN. MAYBE THERE'S ONE OF HER SONGS YOU HAVE HEARD: WISHING AND HOPING AND THINKING AND PRAYING. WHEN YOU SAY THAT YOU HOPE THAT A POLITICALLY MOTIVATED BODY IS GOING TO DO THE RIGHT THING TOWARD RATEPAYERS, I THINK YOUR HOPE IS MISPLACED. SO I HOPE NOW BECAUSE I CAN SAY THIS, YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME BODY THAT CONCERN FOR THE RATEPAYERS WILL NOT BE TRUMPED BY WHAT THE CITY OF OMAHA WANTS, WHAT MUD

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

WANTS, WHAT ANY OF THESE ENTITIES WANT WHO HAVE NOT ON THEIR OWN BEEN ABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THAT ISSUE THAT YOU DISCUSSED AS IT BEARS ON THE RATEPAYERS. SO THE QUESTION I WOULD ASK NOW, DO YOU INTEND TO OFFER YOUR AMENDMENT AT SOME POINT OR HAVE THEY SCARED YOU OFF? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THEY HAVE NOT SCARED ME OFF. I THINK THERE'S A PROTOCOL AND I DON'T WANT TO... [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M NOT SAYING WHEN YOU SHOULD. I'M ASKING WHEN YOU...FIRST OF ALL, DO YOU INTEND AT SOME POINT TO OFFER THE AMENDMENT? [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: I THINK I WANT TO GET A BETTER FEEL FOR THE BODY OF WHERE THEY WOULD BE ON SUPPORT. I DON'T WANT TO SUBMARINE SENATOR SCHEER'S BILL BECAUSE I DO BELIEVE THAT THE UNDERLYING POLICY BEHIND HIS BILL IS CORRECT, AND I WANT TO SET A PRECEDENCE THAT, IN FACT, WE DO DO THAT SO THAT WHEN WE DO COME...MAYBE COME BACK NEXT YEAR WITH THAT BILL AS A STANDALONE AND I CAN LOOK AT THE BODY AND I CAN SAY HA-HA WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER. AND... [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND HERE'S WHAT THEY WILL SAY TO YOU... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...HA-HA-HA. BY YOU HELPING THESE RURAL PEOPLE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE ANY RECIPROCATATION. I'VE BEEN DOWN HERE 40 YEARS. THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN. THEY GET WHAT THEY WANT AND IT'S OVER. YOU HAVE TO REALIZE. THIS IS MY OPINION, BUT MY TIME IS OUT. I'M PUTTING MY LIGHT ON AND I WILL PROCEED AT THAT POINT, BUT I WANT SENATOR SCHEER TO KNOW THAT I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING AGAINST HIM FOR BRINGING THE BILL. HE'S LOOKING OUT FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE HE REPRESENTS, BUT DON'T EXPECT HIM TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU REPRESENT. THAT'S WHY YOU'RE HERE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR HARR. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON IN THIS BILL, LB52. AND IT NORMALLY WOULD BE AN EASY BILL TO SUPPORT. IT HELPS A PARTICULAR

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

AREA, AND THE MONEY IS SMALL. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT TO THE STATE IS DE MINIMIS. SO THIS IS AN EASY BILL TO SUPPORT, BUT IT VIOLATES A PRINCIPLE. WE KEEP CREATING EXEMPTIONS, SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS, AND THAT'S DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS BECAUSE WE DIMINISH THE REVENUE FROM THE STATE AND THERE'S NO PHILOSOPHICAL REASON TO CONTINUE ALL THESE EXEMPTIONS. AND SENATOR HARR IS EXACTLY RIGHT. YOU KNOW, IF WE TAKE THE STAND, THE PHILOSOPHICAL STAND, THAT THIS SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICT SHOULD RECEIVE A SALES TAX EXEMPTION, THEN THE CITY OF OMAHA WITH ITS SEWER RELOCATION AND MUD WITH ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, THEY OUGHT TO BE EXEMPT AS WELL. SO LET'S TRY TO BE CONSISTENT IF WE CAN. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M GOING TO SAY THAT I'M GLAD SENATOR McCOLLISTER MADE HIS COMMENTS. WE ARE SETTING A TONE. THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS I FOUGHT AGAINST THAT FEE BILL SO HARD ON THE MARRIAGE LICENSES. I'M AGAINST THE FEE ANYWAY, BUT THE METHODOLOGY OF DOING IT. IF YOU ALL ARE GOING TO DO IT THIS WAY, THEN EXPECT ME TO TAKE A MUCH GREATER INTEREST IN BILLS THAT WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THAT MUCH DIFFERENCE TO ME. I'M GOING TO BE SEEING, APPARENTLY, A NICHE OVER HERE, OR A NICH (PHONETIC) AS SOME PEOPLE SAY, CARVED OUT FOR THE INTERESTS THEY REPRESENT. BUT EVEN THAT PERSON IS NOT GOING TO CARRY IT OVER ACROSS THE BOARD. THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF PRELIMINARY POSTURING ABOUT WHAT'S GOING TO BE DONE WITH REFERENCE TO PROPERTY TAXES. WHEN THOSE BILLS GET HERE, DON'T EXPECT ME TO BE ACCOMMODATING, COLLEGIAL, OR ANYTHING ELSE. THESE BILLS ARE GOING TO BE DRIVEN BY CERTAIN SPECIAL INTEREST SEGMENTS IN THIS SOCIETY WHO ARE ACCUSTOMED TO GETTING WHAT THEY WANT, AND WITHOUT INTENDING TO DISPARAGE MY CANINE FRIENDS, THEY ARE REFERRED TO AS THE BIG DOGS. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE WORTHY OF BEING MENTIONED IN THE SAME SENTENCE AS MY CANINE FRIENDS UNLESS IT'S FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHOWING WHICH ONE HAS THE GREATER DIGNITY, WHICH WOULD BE MY CANINE FRIENDS. I'M NOT GOING TO SUPPORT SENATOR SCHEER'S BILL. I HAVE NOT BEEN IN FAVOR OF ALL OF THESE EXEMPTIONS THAT ARE GIVEN, AND A LOT OF THEM HAVE GONE TO RURAL AREAS AND RURAL INTERESTS BUT NOT NECESSARILY THE PEOPLE. THERE ARE IMPLEMENT DEALERS, AND OTHERS YOU COULD NAME, WHO HAVE POLITICAL CLOUT. AND WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT GIVING TAX BREAKS, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ENSURING THAT SOME PERSON WHO IS WEALTHY, HAS A BUSINESS, AND MAKE SURE THAT THE UNDERWRITING OF THAT BUSINESS IS

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ON THE TAXPAYERS SO THAT HE CAN GET RICHER. THESE BUSINESSES ARE NOT CHARITABLE INTERESTS. THEY ARE TRYING TO MAKE MONEY. TO GIVE ONE EXAMPLE THAT I THINK PEOPLE CAN GRASP BECAUSE YOU'VE HEARD A LOT ABOUT IT, THESE SPECIAL TAX BREAKS TO LARGE CORPORATIONS IF THEY'VE PRODUCED JOBS OR WHATEVER OTHER SCAMS THEY'RE GOING TO RUN, IT'S NOT THE TAXPAYER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE THESE BUSINESSES SUCCESSFUL. IF YOU HAVE A TUB AND THERE ARE LINES IN IT FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE TOP AND FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES YOU HAVE TO HAVE ENOUGH TAX REVENUE TO REACH LINE ONE, TWO, AND SO FORTH, FOR EVERY ONE WHO DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE HIS OR HER OR THEIR SHARE TO THE CONTENTS OF THAT TUB, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO ARE CONTRIBUTING WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PUT MORE IN. AND WHEN YOU HAVE LITTLE BUSINESSES THAT DON'T GET THESE BENEFITS, AND THIS IS WHERE I'M WONDERING WHERE THE PLATTE INSTITUTE, ALL OF THESE SO-CALLED THINK TANKS AND THESE RIGHT-WING CONSERVATIVE "REPELICANS" ARE WHEN THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER PAY TAXES THAT WILL SUBSIDIZE THE BIG BUSINESS THAT WILL RUN HIM OR HER OUT OF BUSINESS. THE LITTLE BUSINESSES, YOU ALL TALK ABOUT THESE MOM-AND-POP GROCERY STORES, JUST LIKE YOU TALK ABOUT THE VETERANS BUT YOU DON'T REALLY HELP THEM. IF A WALMART IS GOING TO GET SUBSIDIES BY WAY OF THESE BILLS THAT YOU ALL PASS OVER MY STRENUOUS OBJECTION, DO YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO SAY THE SMALL BUSINESS... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THAT'S GOING TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF BUSINESS BY WALMART CANNOT GET THOSE BREAKS BUT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THE PORTION OF TAXES THAT WILL BENEFIT WALMART? NO. YOU SAY, WE'RE BLINDED BY THE BIG SHOTS AND THEY'RE GOING TO GET THE CUTS AND THE BREAKS FROM THIS LEGISLATURE AND DRIVE OUT OF BUSINESS THESE SMALL ONES. DOESN'T THAT OCCUR TO ANY OF YOU ALL? WHY MAKE SOMEBODY HELP FOOT THE BILL THAT'S GOING TO RUN THEM OUT OF BUSINESS? THOSE ARE THE ISSUES I BRING UP THAT NOBODY WANTS TO HEAR. BUT ON THIS ONE WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IT AND IF I HAVE TO OFFER SOME MOTIONS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK, I WILL, BUT THEY WON'T NECESSARILY BE TO DESTROY THE BILL BUT TO GET THIS ISSUE ON THE RECORD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BURKE HARR. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, FOR YOUR COMMENTS. I SUPPORT LB52. I WAS

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY SENATOR CHAMBERS'S QUESTIONS. AS FAR AS I HAVEN'T DONE THE DUE DILIGENCE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE...I DON'T THINK MUD BOARD HAS TAKEN AN OFFICIAL STAND. THE CITY HASN'T TAKEN AN OFFICIAL STAND, AND THAT'S PART OF THE REASON WHY I HAVEN'T OFFERED THE AMENDMENT. BUT IT IS A REAL ISSUE IN THE CITY OF OMAHA. THIS IS AN INDIRECT PROPERTY TAX ON US. IT'S A COST OF LIVING THAT IF YOU WANT TO LIVE THERE, YOU GOT TO PAY IT. IT LOOKS LIKE A PROPERTY TAX, IT ACTS LIKE A PROPERTY TAX, AND IT QUACKS LIKE A PROPERTY TAX BECAUSE YOU WANT TO LIVE THERE, YOU GOT TO PAY, AND THERE'S NO WAY AROUND IT. AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE WATER, YOU CAN'T LIVE IN THE CITY. WE DON'T HAVE A SPRING YOU CAN GO OUT TO AND PUMP. WE DON'T HAVE WINDMILLS IN THE CITY. SO YOU'RE AT THE BECK AND CALL. AND THIS IS A REAL ISSUE. YOU KNOW, I HAVE REAL CONCERN ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO, AND I'M NOT ALONE. I KNOW IT'S AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUE FOR THE CITY OF OMAHA, BRINGING IN NEW BUSINESSES. WE ALWAYS USED TO BRAG THAT WE HAD LOW UTILITY RATES. WE DON'T HAVE THAT ANYMORE. WE DON'T HAVE THE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE WE HAD BEFORE. I SUPPORT LB52 BECAUSE I THINK IT'S GOOD POLICY. DO I THINK MY FELLOW SENATORS FROM THE RURAL AREAS WILL REMEMBER THAT NEXT YEAR IF I BRING? YEAH, I DO. I TRUST YOU GUYS. I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND AND YOU'LL BE REMINDED. TRUST ME, YOU'LL BE REMINDED THAT THIS WENT THROUGH THIS YEAR WHEN IT DOES. I'LL BE HERE, HOPEFULLY, GOD WILLING AND THE CREEK DON'T RISE, I WILL BE HERE, TOO, TO REMIND YOU WHEN THIS PASSES. BUT I DO HAVE A QUESTION FOR SENATOR SCHEER IF HE WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB52]

PRESIDENT SCHEER: CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THE SALES AND USE TAX FOR THESE SANITARY DISTRICTS, WHO OWNS THE SANITARY DISTRICTS? IS IT A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR INDIVIDUAL? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: NO, IT IS A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: OKAY. SO...THANK YOU, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW. SO HERE YOU HAVE A SALES AND USE TAX FOR FLOODING THAT GOES TO A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. SAME SITUATION WITH THE CITY. THE CITY HAS TO COME THROUGH AND THEY HAVE TO BUY THE PIPE, THE CONCRETE, ALL THAT GOES INTO SEWER SEPARATION, AND THAT GOES BACK, YOU KNOW, THEY PAY A TAX ON IT. THE CITY PAYS A TAX ON IT. IT COMES BACK AS AN ADDITIONAL COST AND THEN THE STATE GETS THE MONEY AND WE IN OMAHA

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

PAY THE ADDITIONAL COST. DOESN'T MAKE SENSE TO TAX A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. AGAIN, WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE, GOOD FOR THE GANDER. I SUPPORT LB52 AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY FELLOW SENATORS NEXT YEAR ON SOMETHING TO HELP CONTROL FLOODING IN THE CITY OF OMAHA AS WELL. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I'LL HAVE TO AGREE WITH SENATOR McCOLLISTER. IN THE PAST WHEN THE RURAL AREAS, TOO, WHEN THE SMALL CITIES ADDRESSED SOME DRAINAGE ISSUES THAT I'M FAMILIAR WITH, WE PAID THE SALES TAX AND WE MOVED FORWARD. IT WAS JUST A PART OF THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS. THE MORE WE GRANT EXEMPTIONS AND CARVE OUT NICHES WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE PROPERTY TAX ISSUE DOWN THE ROAD. SO WHEN WE START LOOKING AT ALL THESE SMALL ITEMS, SUDDENLY THEY ADD UP TO VERY LARGE ITEMS. AND SO IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY EXEMPTIONS GRANTED AND LAST YEAR EVERYBODY LOOKED AT ALL THE EXEMPTIONS FROM SALES TAX AND, YES, SOME MORE WERE GRANTED. BUT I THINK THIS IS SOMETHING WE HAVE TO LOOK AT REALLY HARD BEFORE WE DO THIS. THERE'S OTHER ISSUES AT PLAY WHEN IT COMES TO THE CITY AT OMAHA AND HOW THINGS WERE DONE IN YEARS PAST. WHEN THEY COMBINED THEIR SEWER AND THEIR DRAINAGE, THERE WAS QUITE A COST SAVINGS BACK THEN BUT NOW IT'S TURNED INTO AN ISSUE BECAUSE THE EPA HAS FORCED THE ISSUE. AND SO IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT IT'S SO EXPENSIVE TO REPLACE THAT NOW. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT IN RURAL AREAS, SOME OF THESE DRAINAGE THAT WE'VE PUT IN PER POPULATION PER PERSON, IT WAS AN EXTREMELY HIGH COST ALSO. NEW WATER SYSTEMS WERE PUT IN AND THOSE COSTS ADDED UP, AND THEY WERE NOT CHEAP EITHER. AND SO I THINK WE HAVE TO LOOK REALLY SERIOUSLY AT ADDING MORE EXEMPTIONS TO THE CAUSE. SO THANK YOU. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND THIS IS YOUR THIRD OPPORTUNITY, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND I AM PREPARING A MOTION. AND I WANT SENATOR SCHEER TO KNOW THAT MY INTENT IS NOT GENERATED BY OPPOSITION TO HIS BILL PER SE. BUT WHEN ANY ITEM OR SUBJECT COMES BEFORE THIS BODY IT IS OPEN TO DISCUSSION AND WHEN IT'S A SERIOUS ONE SUCH AS THIS THAT GOES TO A PRINCIPLE, IT'S GOING TO GET THAT DISCUSSION IF I PERCEIVE THE PRINCIPLE IN HEARING IN IT.

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

AND IF I HAVE TO BE THE ONLY ONE DOING IT, I'M GOING TO DO IT BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPILING WHAT'S CALLED A LEGISLATIVE HISTORY ON MATTERS SUCH AS THIS. I'LL GIVE AN EXAMPLE. YOU SAY ABORTION IN A LEGISLATURE SUCH AS THIS AND EVERYBODY'S EYES OPEN, THEIR EARS GO UP, AND THEY START DIALING THE TELEPHONE TO SEE WHAT THEIR MARCHING ORDERS ARE. SO THAT'S WHY I WANT TO USE THIS EXAMPLE. THEY BROUGHT A BILL HERE SOME YEARS AGO DEALING WITH WHAT THEY CALL LATE-TERM ABORTION. I AM OPPOSED TO ANY STATE ENCROACHMENT ON THE RIGHT OF A WOMAN TO MAKE A DECISION ABOUT HER OWN BODY AND HER OWN BUSINESS, AND I DON'T WANT ANY MALE-DOMINATED ORGANIZATIONS WHETHER IT'S CALLED A CHURCH OR WHATEVER TO DICTATE TO WOMEN WHAT THEY ARE TO DO. AND I, AS ONE, CANNOT VOTE THESE THINGS DOWN, BUT I CAN TRY TO CRIPPLE THEM, SHOW HOW FOOLISH THEY ARE, AND GET INTO THE RECORD THAT WHICH A COURT MAY USE TO STRIKE THE WHOLE THING DOWN. SO ON THIS BILL THAT I'M TALKING ABOUT I ASK QUESTIONS TO VARIOUS MEMBERS ON THE FLOOR, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCER OF THE BILL, AND I KNEW THE WAY HE HAD TO ANSWER THE QUESTION. IF YOU ARE CONTESTING WITH SOMEBODY IN A COURTROOM, BEFORE YOU ASK A QUESTION BE AWARE OF WHAT THE ANSWER NOT ONLY SHOULD BE BUT WHAT IT COULD BE. BUT I STUDY THE PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR AFTER I'VE BEEN AROUND THEM FOR A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME AND I KNEW WHAT HE WOULD HAVE TO GIVE AS AN ANSWER, AND IT WAS HIS ANSWER ONCE OBTAINED THAT LET ME KNOW I HAD WON. WHEN THE VOTE CAME, I WAS THE ONLY ONE VOTING AGAINST THE BILL, BUT WHEN THE THING WAS CHALLENGED IT WAS FIRST THE FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT. MY EXCHANGE WITH THAT PERSON WAS CITED BY THE COURT IN SHOWING WHY THE BILL WAS UNCONSTITUTIONALLY VAGUE AND OVERREACHING BASED ON THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE INTRODUCER OF THE BILL, AND IT WAS STRUCK DOWN. IT WAS APPEALED TO THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT. SAME THING, SAME EXCHANGE WAS RELIED ON, AND THEY AGREED WITH THE DISTRICT COURT. IT WAS APPEALED ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT, AND IT WAS AS THAT SONG I TOLD YOU, THIRD VERSE, SAME AS THE FIRST. IT WAS STRUCK DOWN. SO ALTHOUGH I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO VOTED AGAINST IT I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO WAS RIGHT. SO EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE AT THIS POINT IN THE SESSION MAY BE TRYING TO MANIFEST COLLEGIALLY, I KNOW THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING TO DEVELOP BY THE TIME WE GET DEEPER INTO THE SESSION SO I'M STAKING OUT MY POSITION NOW SO NOBODY WILL BE SURPRISED. THIS THAT YOU'RE DOING IS GOING TO COME BACK TO BITE YOU. SENATOR SCHEER'S LITTLE BILL AS IT HAS BEEN POINTED OUT... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BY ITSELF IS NOT GOING TO DO THAT MUCH HARM. BUT I HAVE A LITTLE ANALOGY THAT I'VE GIVEN FROM TIME TO TIME WHICH I INTEND TO GIVE. BUT SINCE THIS IS MY THIRD TIME TO SPEAK AND I CAN'T SPEAK AGAIN UNLESS I CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR MYSELF, THAT'S WHAT I PROPOSE TO DO DIRECTLY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER. [LB52]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, COLLEAGUES. WE'RE TALKING BIG MONEY HERE, NOT FOR THIS PARTICULAR BILL, LB52, BUT IF WE WERE TO EXEMPT OUT THE SALES TAX FOR THE PROJECTS IN OMAHA, WHICH I ESTIMATE PROBABLY IS \$250 MILLION A YEAR WHEN YOU INCLUDE OPPD, CITY OF OMAHA, AND MUD, WE'RE TALKING REAL MONEY BECAUSE THE REVENUE TO THE STATE IS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF \$13 MILLION, SO WE ARE TALKING BIG MONEY AND I DOUBT THE CITY OF OMAHA IS GOING TO WANT TO LOSE THAT REVENUE. SO, YOU KNOW, WE SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE ESTABLISHING AS A PRECEDENT BECAUSE WE WILL BE BACK TO TALK ABOUT OMAHA'S PARTICULAR SITUATION IF WE CONTINUE TO MOVE ON BILLS OF THIS SORT. THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR GLOOR. [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, MEMBERS. AS CHAIR OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE I FEEL THE NEED TO POINT OUT TO THE BODY AND WOULD ASK THE BODY TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH, GO TO YOUR FILE, WHICH I'M SURE YOU BROUGHT UP FROM DOWN BELOW OR DOWN THE HALL, YOU WILL NOTICE THIS BILL CAME OUT OF THE COMMITTEE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES, WITH NO OPPOSITION FROM ANYBODY WHO WAS A TESTIFIER, AND WITH NO FISCAL NOTE. NO FISCAL NOTE. THE COMMENT IS THE IMPACT WILL BE MINIMAL AND I THINK DURING THE TESTIMONY THE DISCUSSION WAS MAYBE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT \$1,000. THIS IS A DRAINAGE DISTRICT, A DRAINAGE DISTRICT. I UNDERSTAND SENATOR HARR'S ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE CHALLENGES OMAHA FACES. I ALWAYS APPRECIATE SENATOR CHAMBERS USING DIFFERENT BILLS TO EDUCATE THE BODY, BUT I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT WE DON'T GET OUR APPLES AND ORANGES MIXED HERE. I DO NOT THINK, I DON'T THINK THE COMMITTEE THINKS WE'RE SETTING PRECEDENT. WE ALREADY EXEMPT CERTAIN DRAINAGE DISTRICTS. SO WE'RE NOT SETTING A PRECEDENT. WE ALREADY EXEMPT SOME DRAINAGE DISTRICTS. WHAT SENATOR SCHEER IS TRYING TO DO WITH HIS LEGISLATION IS, IN FACT, ADD TO THE DEFINITION OF THE TYPE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

OF DRAINAGE DISTRICTS THAT ARE EXEMPT. AND YOU'RE WELCOME TO ASK ME TO DEFINE THAT. I'M NOT ABLE AT THIS PERIOD OF TIME TO DEFINE HOW HIS IS DIFFERENT, BUT HE PERHAPS COULD DO THAT IF YOU WANT TO ASK A QUESTION. AGAIN, WE TALKED ABOUT THIS BILL IN COMMITTEE. IT CAME OUT 8-0, WE HAD NO OPPONENTS, NO FISCAL NOTE ATTACHED TO IT, INTERESTING DISCUSSION, BUT WE HAVE GOTTEN WAY DOWN THE ROAD WITH THIS DIALOGUE BEYOND WHAT THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF HIS BILL IS, WHICH RELATES TO DRAINAGE DISTRICTS WHICH ARE ALREADY EXEMPT UNDER STATUTE AND ADDING TO IT A SMALL CHANGE TO ADD THE DEFINITION THAT FITS THE DRAINAGE DISTRICT HE IS TALKING ABOUT. THANK YOU. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I DO HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION, SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS MOVED TO BRACKET THE BILL UNTIL APRIL 15. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON YOUR BRACKET MOTION. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR GLOOR A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR GLOOR, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR GLOOR, AS I LOOK AT THIS AGENDA SHEET IT STATES LB52 EXEMPT SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICTS FROM SALES AND USE TAXES. DOES THE TERM "EXEMPT" WHEN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TAXES APPLY TO OTHER THAN SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICTS? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: WELL, IF I UNDERSTAND YOUR... [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHEN WE TALK ABOUT MAKING EXEMPTIONS, DO EXEMPTIONS APPLY TO MORE THAN SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICTS? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHEN WE TALK ABOUT SALES AND USE TAXES, ARE THOSE CATEGORIES OR DESIGNATIONS THAT APPLY TO MORE THAN DRAINAGE DISTRICTS? [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR GLOOR: CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. IF I STUDY HISTORY AND I'M IN THE HISTORY SECTION OF THE LIBRARY STACKS, THE FACT THAT THAT IS WHERE I FOCUS MY INTEREST, DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE ONLY BOOKS IN THOSE STACKS WILL BE BOOKS DEALING WITH HISTORY? [LB52]

SENATOR GLOOR: WELL, NOW YOU'RE IN AN AREA THAT I HAVE A LITTLE EXPERTISE BUT NOT AS MUCH AS YOURS, SO I WON'T CHALLENGE YOU ON THAT, AND I'LL SAY, CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, HERE'S THE POINT THAT I'M GETTING TO. WE DEAL WITH SUBJECT MATTERS HERE. WELL, LET ME SPEAK FOR MYSELF. MAYBE THE OTHERS DON'T. BUT THERE ARE SUBJECT MATTERS, SALES AND USE TAXES. WHAT HAS BEEN THE THEME OF THIS SESSION? PROPERTY TAXES. THERE ARE OTHER BIG MONEY PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN INCOME TAX BREAKS. SO WHEN YOU SAY THE WORD TAX OR TAXES, YOU CAN TRY, IF YOU WANT TO, TO SAY WE'RE ONLY TALKING ABOUT THIS LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD, BUT THAT CONCEPT AND THAT IDEA GO THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE OF FINANCES AS FAR AS THE STATE IS CONCERNED. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT EXEMPTIONS, WHETHER YOU'RE EXEMPTING SOMEBODY FROM PAYING 2 CENTS OR \$2 MILLION DOLLARS, THE THEORY ON WHICH IS BASED THE GRANTING OF THE EXEMPTION IS THE SAME, THE THEORY. BUT THEN WHEN YOU GET TO THE JUSTIFICATION, THAT'S WHEN YOU START TALKING ABOUT, WELL, IT'S JUST A LITTLE BIT HERE, A LITTLE BIT THERE, HERE A LITTLE, THERE A LITTLE, EVERYWHERE A LITTLE, LITTLE. THEN BY THE TIME YOU GET THROUGH DOING THAT, YOU HAVE A DIFFICULT SITUATION. BEFORE PEOPLE KNEW WHAT A FLOOD WAS, GOD HAD A WAY, THAT OLD TESTAMENT GOD JEHOVAH, HAD A WAY OF BARGAINING WITH PEOPLE. SO HE LET AN OLD GUY NAMED NOAH, WHO WAS REALLY A DRUNKARD AND IT WAS ESTABLISHED THAT HE WAS A DRUNKARD, IF I SEND A FLOOD TO PUNISH THESE EVIL PEOPLE, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? NOAH SAID, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A FLOOD IS. SO GOD SAID, WELL, NOAH, DO YOU KNOW WHAT RAIN IS? NOAH SAID, WELL, I'M NOT EVEN FAMILIAR WITH THE TERM RAIN. SO IN THE LANGUAGE THAT NOAH SPOKE, BECAUSE GOD IS POLYLINGUAL, HE SAID IN WHATEVER THAT LANGUAGE WAS, THAT IT'S WHEN THESE DROPLETS COME DOWN OUT OF THE CLOUDS AND HIT THE GROUND. THAT'S WHAT RAIN IS. AND NOAH SAID, WELL, I LIKE THAT. SO GOD SAID IF I SEND RAIN TO PUNISH THESE PEOPLE, IS THAT A BAD THING. NOAH SAID CERTAINLY NOT, RAIN IS GOOD. BUT, SEE, GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING AND CAN BE TRICKY. SO HERE'S THE WAY HE OPERATES. I WILL BUILD A FLOOD ONE RAIN DROP AT THE TIME. THE OCEAN

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

CONSISTS OF AN INFINITE NUMBER OF DROPS. BLIZZARDS ARE GENERATED ONE SNOWFLAKE AT THE TIME. SO WHEN YOU'RE DEALING WITH INATTENTIVE PEOPLE AND THEY ARE QUICK TO BE ACCOMMODATING, THEY WON'T SEE THAT THIS THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT CAN TURN INTO A FLOOD. THERE WAS A LITTLE BOY WHO SUPPOSEDLY REALIZED THAT THIS DIKE HELD BACK A LOT OF WATER. AND THERE WAS A LITTLE BITTY HOLE IN THE DIKE, A LITTLE BITTY HOLE, AND WATER WAS TRICKLING OUT. BUT THAT KID HAD MORE SENSE THAN MY COLLEAGUES ON THIS FLOOR HAS. HE KNEW THAT THAT WATER BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT WORKS, WATER IS A SEMIUNIVERSAL SOLVENT. IT DISSOLVES ALMOST EVERYTHING. IT CANNOT DISSOLVE EVERYTHING OR THERE WOULD BE NOTHING THAT COULD HOLD IT. SO IT'S A SEMIUNIVERSAL SOLVENT, AND THAT LITTLE BOY SENSED IT. SO HE KNEW IF THAT HOLE WERE ALLOWED TO REMAIN UNDEALT WITH, THAT WATER WOULD CONTINUE TO FLOW. PRETTY SOON MORE WOULD FLOW, MORE AND MORE. THE HOLE WOULD THEN AT SOME POINT BE BIGGER THAN THE DIKE. SO HE DID NOT HAVE TO GO TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO GET PERMISSION. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THE WATER BOARD TO GET PERMISSION. HE DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THE BURGOMASTER TO GET PERMISSION OR THE KING OR THE QUEEN OR WHOEVER WAS IN CHARGE. HE TOOK ACTION, THE KIND OF ACTION THAT A CHILD CAN TAKE. AND WHAT WAS THAT ACTION? HE STUCK HIS FINGER IN THE HOLE AND STOPPED THE FLOW WHILE IT WAS STILL STOPPABLE. SO WHEN YOU ALL WANT TO GIVE THE ARGUMENT, "THIS IS SMALL" THAT DOESN'T ADDRESS THE ISSUE PROPERLY. IF THIS WERE THE LAST DAY OF THE SESSION AND THIS WERE THE ONLY BILL WE WERE GOING TO DEAL WITH, MAYBE YOU COULD GIVE THAT ARGUMENT AND IT WOULD CARRY WEIGHT. BUT WE HAVE NOT YET BEGUN TO LEGISLATE. FLOODS ARE CREATED ONE DROP OF RAIN AT THE TIME. IN FACT, YOU ALL JUST GAVE ME AN IDEA FOR A LITTLE RHYME. SO YOU'LL BE GETTING IT IN DAYS TO COME. HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ROUGHLY, 3:00, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THREE, I MIGHT HAVE TIME TO FINISH THIS. AND IF NOT, I'LL FINISH THE NEXT TIME I SPEAK. THERE WERE TWO LINES OF PEOPLE. THEY WERE FACING EACH OTHER. AND THE LINE STRETCHED FROM HERE TO THERE AND THE DISTANCE WAS A MATTER OF A LOT. SO THEY TOOK A VERY STRONG CAMEL AND THEY TOLD THE CAMEL, WE WANT YOU TO WALK BETWEEN THESE TWO ROWS OF PEOPLE. AND YOU SEE THOSE TWO BASKETS? AND THE CAMEL SAID, YES, IN CAMEL TALK. THERE'S ONE ON THE RIGHT, ONE ON THE LEFT. WELL, WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN IS THAT EACH ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE HAS A LITTLE GRAIN OF SAND, SEE THAT? CAMEL SAID, WELL, IF I PUT MY SPECS ON...OKAY, YEAH, I SEE IT. I'LL TAKE YOUR WORD FOR IT BECAUSE HE REALLY DIDN'T SEE IT. SO THE CAMEL STARTED

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

HIS JOURNEY, PLODDING IN THE WAY THAT CAMELS DO. AND EACH PERSON WOULD THROW IN ONLY A GRAIN. THAT'S ALL. BUT AFTER A WHILE AND AS THE CAMEL PROGRESSED, MORE AND MORE PEOPLE THREW IN THEIR GRAINS OF SAND. PRETTY SOON, THE CAMEL NOTED THAT THE BASKETS WERE HEAVIER NOW THAN THEY HAD BEEN AT THE TIME THEY WERE PLACED ON HIS BACK. HE THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAVE JUST BEEN BECAUSE HE HAD WALKED SOME DISTANCE, LOST A BIT OF ENERGY, SO THE SAME WEIGHT SEEMS HEAVIER. BUT THEN A POINT WAS REACHED WHERE HE SAID SOMETHING IS GOING ON HERE. THIS BASKET ON MY RIGHT AND THIS BASKET ON MY LEFT, BOTH OF WHICH WERE ALMOST LIKE FEATHERS, NOW BEGIN TO TAKE ON THE WEIGHT OF LARGE ROCKS. BUT IT COULDN'T BECAUSE NOBODY IS THROWING IN A ROCK. HE CONTINUED ALONG HIS WAY. FINALLY THE BASKETS WERE ALMOST FILLED. HIS LEGS SPLAYED OUT. HE FELL TO THE GROUND. THE BASKETS FELL AND... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...CRUSHED HIM. AND WHEN PEOPLE SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THEY WERE AMAZED AND MARVELED AT IT. AND SOMEBODY CAME ALONG, ONE OF THOSE MORALISTS, AND TOLD THESE PEOPLE YOU'RE ALL WRONG. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT. AND YOU KNOW WHAT EACH PERSON SAID? IT'S NOT MY FAULT, I ONLY PUT ONE GRAIN IN. THAT'S WHAT EVERYBODY SAID. THEY SAID IT'S THE FAULT OF THE ONE WHO PUT THE LAST GRAIN IN THAT BROKE THE CAMEL'S BACK. THAT'S WHO'S AT FAULT. BUT THAT ONE SAID, HAD NOT EVERYBODY BEFORE IT GOT TO ME NOT PUT A GRAIN OF SAND IN, MINE WOULDN'T HAVE BROKEN THE CAMEL'S BACK. YOU ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE. SO NOW THAT'S WHAT WE'RE CONFRONTING. YOU'RE STARTING TO PUT THE GRAINS IN THE BASKET. WHEN THE CAMEL FALLS, EACH ONE IS GOING TO SAY, I DIDN'T DO IT. BUT YOU ALL HAVE A GUILTY HAND IN IT, AND I WANT TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO IT BEFORE THE DAMAGE IS DONE. OH, IT'S GOING TO BE DONE. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE ROLE THAT YOU PLAYED IN IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I STAND IN OBJECTION TO THE BRACKET MOTION AND SUPPORT LB52. BUT I DO ALSO TAKE EXCEPTION TO WHAT MY CHAIRMAN ON REVENUE SAID THAT THIS IS NOT NEW GROUND THAT WE'RE PLOWING. THE ANSWER IS, YES, IT IS. WE'RE OPENING UP NEW EXCEPTIONS AND WE'RE SAYING, HEY, WE'RE EVALUATING, WE'RE SAYING THESE PEOPLE DESERVE A TAX EXEMPTION, AND THEY DO. AND I DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT BECAUSE WE SEE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

THE IMPORTANCE OF PROVIDING FLOOD CONTROL NOT JUST FOR OUR FARMLAND, BUT FOR OUR SOCIETY. AND I HAD SOMEONE COME UP TO ME AND SAY, BURKE, HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE. LB52 GOES TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. WHAT YOU WANT TO DO GOES TO INDIVIDUALS. AND THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR THAT. BUT GUESS WHAT POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS ARE? THEY'RE US. THEY'RE MADE UP OF US, THE INDIVIDUALS. THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN YOU AND I. THEY MAY BE BIGGER. THEY MAY BE ABLE TO AFFORD A LOBBYIST, THEY MAY NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD A LOBBYIST. MAYBE SOME INDIVIDUALS CAN, TOO, I GUESS. BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, IT'S ABOUT HOW WE ALLOCATE THE DOLLARS THAT ARE ENTRUSTED TO US, THE STATE. AND ARE WE TO SAY, WELL, WE CAN ONLY GET TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR FLOOD CONTROL TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS BUT NOT INDIVIDUALS? I'M NOT SURE--AND EXCUSE THE PUN--THAT CARRIES A LOT OF WATER. IT'S ABOUT HOW DO WE PROVIDE FLOOD CONTROL AT THE MOST EFFECTIVE RATE THAT'S FAIREST FOR THE INDIVIDUALS WHO BEAR THE COST? THAT'S WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DECIDE. RIGHT NOW IN OMAHA, YOU CAN SAY, YOU KNOW, WE'RE A BIG CITY. WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THIS ON EARLIER. I'M NOT SURE IF I DISAGREE WITH YOU ON THAT. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, IT WAS...THE CAN WAS KICKED DOWN THE ROAD. AND WE HAVE A REAL ISSUE IN OMAHA. AND WE'RE ALL ONE STATE AND WE ALL LOOK OUT FOR EACH OTHER, RIGHT? I MEAN, ISN'T THAT WHY WE'RE LOOKING AT LOWERING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FROM 75 TO 65 OR MAYBE EVEN 55? BECAUSE WE BELIEVE IN FAIRNESS AND EQUITY AND WE WANT TO LOOK OUT FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THE STATE. WE DON'T SIT THERE AND SAY, YOU OWN THE LAND, YOUR PROBLEM, YOUR DOG, YOU DEAL WITH IT. NO. WE SAY, WELL, WHAT IS FAIR? WHAT'S RIGHT AND WHAT'S JUST? AND THEN WE REEVALUATE. WE LOOK AT THE POLICY AND WE REEVALUATE AND WE MAKE CHANGES OR MAYBE WE DON'T. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE. THAT'S WHAT...THIS IS OPENING THE BOOK SAYING WHY ARE...FOR FLOOD CONTROL, WHY ARE SANITARY DISTRICTS PAYING WHEN YOU HAVE OTHERS THAT DON'T. AND WE LOOKED AT IT AND YOU KNOW WHAT? I VOTED IT OUT. I VOTED FOR IT. I THINK IT'S A GOOD BILL. BUT WHAT I'M ALSO SAYING IS, FOLKS, LOOK AT US IN OMAHA. I KNOW WE'RE NOT POPULAR. WE'RE NOT THE MOST POPULAR PEOPLE. BUT WE ARE FELLOW CITIZENS AND I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT US AND REALIZE THAT THEY'RE THE MOST VULNERABLE IN OUR SOCIETY. SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE LIVE IN OMAHA AND WE'RE MAKING THEM PAY A WHOLE HECK OF A LOT MORE FOR SOMETHING AS BASIC AS WATER. CAN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT WATER. SO WHETHER THAT TAX BREAK GOES TO A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR IT GOES TO AN INDIVIDUAL, I SAY HOOEY, DOESN'T REALLY MATTER. WHAT DOES MATTER IS WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY AS A STATE TO COME TOGETHER AND DECIDE WHO COULD AND SHOULD BEAR THE BURDEN. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO BE DOING

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ON THE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF BILLS. SO I SUPPORT LB52. BUT TO SAY THIS IS NOT... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU...NOT PLOWING NEW GROUND, IT IS. IT'S A REEVALUATION AND IT'S DETERMINING WHAT IS FAIR, JUST, AND EQUITABLE. AND I ASK THAT WHEN WE LOOK AT ANY BILL YOU ALWAYS KEEP THAT IN YOUR MIND. WHAT IS FAIR, JUST, AND EQUITABLE? THANK YOU. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE FACT THAT THIS IS A LITTLE BILL, A PEEWEE BILL, IS EXACTLY WHY WE OUGHT TO USE IT TO DISCUSS THESE BIGGER ISSUES. WE CAN MORE DIRECTLY FOCUS ON THE ISSUES AND THE PRINCIPLES AT STAKE WITHOUT HAVING IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND, IF I VOTE FOR THIS IT'S GOING TO BE A LOT OF MONEY GOING HERE AND NO MONEY GOING THERE. WHEN YOU GET THE BIG ISSUES, THEN YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE SPEAKING FROM THE STANDPOINT OF PRINCIPLE. YOU'RE GOING TO BE ARGUING ON THE BASIS OF WHO HAS THE MOST POLITICAL CLOUT. PRINCIPLES WILL MEAN NOTHING. THEY MIGHT INCIDENTALLY BE REFERRED TO. BUT NOW WE'RE ABLE TO HAVE ALMOST AN ACADEMIC DISCUSSION OF TAXATION AND WHO PAYS, WHO DOESN'T PAY, WHO OUGHT TO PAY, AND WHO IS STRONG ENOUGH TO NOT PAY EVEN THOUGH THEY PROBABLY HAVE A GREATER OBLIGATION TO PAY BECAUSE THEY GET GREATER BENEFITS FROM THE TAXES THAT EVERYBODY ELSE PAYS. THERE ARE BUSINESSES THAT ARE SUBSIDIZED IN THE CARE AND CONCERN THAT THEY ARE SHOWN BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE IS PAYING. WATER BILLS, EVEN. SO TO STAND ON THIS FLOOR LIKE SENATOR HARR JUST DID AND TALK ABOUT WE HELP EACH OTHER, THAT IS NONSENSE. WE DON'T DO THAT. THERE IS A RURAL-URBAN SPLIT AND SOME PEOPLE'S MEMORY IS SO SHORT THAT THEY CANNOT LOOK AT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST TO GET AN IDEA OF WHAT'S LIKELY TO HAPPEN IN THE PRESENT AND IN THE FUTURE. FORMER-GOVERNOR HEINEMAN WANTED TO GIVE A CUT IN INCOME TAX TO HIS RICH FRIENDS, MAYBE TO LINE UP A JOB FOR HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS NO LONGER GOVERNOR. HE HAD LISTENED TO HIS "REPELICAN" ELDERS AT THE CONGRESSIONAL LEVEL AND THEY ALWAYS SAID, IF YOU WANT TO DO THIS OVER HERE, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO OVER THERE TO PAY FOR IT? SO YOU KNOW WHAT GOVERNOR HEINEMAN SAID? HE IS GOING TO GET RID OF SOME OF THESE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS. AND YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED WHEN HE WAVED THAT RED FLAG IN FRONT OF THE BULLS OF THE CHAMBER

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

OF COMMERCE AND HIS OTHER GOOD BUDDIES? THEY SAID, OH, NO, YOU WON'T. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE OUR SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS. WE ARE NOT PAYING THAT TAX AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE NOT PAYING THAT TAX AND THE TUB INTO WHICH SALES TAX MONEY GOES, WE WANT THAT TO COME FROM THE OTHER PEOPLE TO SUBSIDIZE US AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CUT THESE EXEMPTIONS FROM UNDER US. AND YOU KNOW WHAT THE GOVERNOR AFTER ALL OF HIS BLUSTERING, AFTER ALL OF HIS STANDING UP AND TRUMPETING WHAT HE WAS GOING TO DO, HE WAS LIKE THE GUY WHO IS IN A ROOM WHERE THERE WAS A BIG PARTY AND HE GOT ANGRY ABOUT SOMETHING. AND HE JUST LAMBASTED EVERYBODY AND THEN TO PUT THE CLINCHER, HE WALKED OUT THE DOOR AND SLAMMED IT AS HARD AS HE COULD AND HE REMEMBERED THAT HE HAD LEFT HIS HAT IN THE ROOM. AND HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO GO BACK INTO THE ROOM. SO GOVERNOR HEINEMAN BACKED AWAY FROM WHAT HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO. AND IT HAD TO DO WITH THESE SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS THAT HAD BEEN GRANTED THAT THE ONES RECEIVING THEM HAD GROWN ACCUSTOMED TO. THEIR BUSINESS PLANS AND SCHEMES WERE BUILT AROUND THAT OR AT LEAST IT WAS TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN WAS TORPEDOED. NOW YOU ALL ARE GOING TO STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND EITHER YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT OR YOU FORGOT ABOUT IT OR YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE APPLICATION. LEARNING IS WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T KNOW, SOMETHING HAPPENS OVER HERE OR THERE THAT BRINGS LIGHT AND UNDERSTANDING TO YOU. AND YOU'VE GOT A NEW WAY TO LOOK AT THIS OVER HERE THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW. NOW YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT AND HOW YOU DEAL WITH IT. THAT'S HOW YOU LEARN. YOU GAIN ADDITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND THEN YOU APPLY IT IF YOU ARE WISE. KNOWLEDGE WITHOUT WISDOM IS USELESS. IT MIGHT GET YOU SOMETHING ON JEOPARDY. BUT WHEN YOU'RE A POLICY MAKER IT SHOULD GO DEEPER THAN THAT. AND WE ARE GOING TO GO DEEPER INTO THIS ISSUE EVEN IF I'M THE ONLY ONE TALKING ABOUT IT. AND THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO. AND I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THOSE TAX CUT BILLS THAT DEFINITELY WILL COME OUT HERE. THEN I'M GOING TO WATCH SENATOR HARR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I'M HAPPY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SENATOR CHAMBERS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ACADEMIC DISCUSSION ON TAX POLICY THIS MORNING. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT'S WHAT I WAS DOING, BUT IF THAT'S WHAT WE'VE ENDED UP ACCOMPLISHING THIS MORNING, THEN I'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT. I DID NOT WANT TO NOT SPEAK IN RELATIONSHIP TO A BRACKET MOTION BECAUSE OBVIOUSLY I WOULD OPPOSE A BRACKET MOTION AND WOULD HOPE AT SOME POINT IN TIME BEFORE A VOTE WAS MADE THAT PERHAPS SENATOR CHAMBERS WHEN HE FINISHES THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT HE MAY BE ALLOTTED WOULD WITHDRAW THE BILL OR THE AMENDMENT AT THAT POINT IN TIME. THE ONLY THING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADD IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE DISCUSSION SO FAR AND NOT TAKING OFFENSE WITH ANYTHING THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID, BUT WE TALK ABOUT HISTORY REPEATING ITSELF AND I THINK THERE IS A LOT TO THAT. I DON'T DISAGREE THAT PERHAPS THERE HAVE BEEN POLITICAL DISPUTES, THAT THERE HAVE BEEN URBAN AND METROPOLITAN DIVIDES. I DON'T QUESTION THAT. BUT I'VE NOT SEEN THAT THIS YEAR. AND WE HAVE 18 NEW SENATORS THIS YEAR. TWO YEARS AGO, THERE WERE 11 OF US THAT WERE BROUGHT IN. LITERALLY HAVE OVER HALF THE BODY THAT'S BEEN REPLACED IN TWO YEARS. AND TO MAKE AN ASSUMPTION THAT THIS BODY WILL MOVE IN ONE DIRECTION OR ANOTHER, I DON'T THINK IS FAIR TO ESPECIALLY THOSE NEW SENATORS, OR REALLY ANY OF US. I KNOW I'M ELECTED BY THE 19th DISTRICT, BUT I'M A NEBRASKA SENATOR AND I WOULD HOPE THAT I TAKE POSITIONS THAT WOULD BE AT LEAST IN MY OPINION IN THE BETTERMENT OF THE ENTIRE STATE, NOT JUST MY DISTRICT. AND I WOULD THINK AND HOPE THAT ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES ON THE FLOOR WOULD DO THE SAME. I'M VERY SYMPATHETIC WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IN OMAHA IN RELATIONSHIP TO THEIR WATER AND SEWER SEPARATION PROBLEMS. I MEAN, I GUESS I'M RURAL BECAUSE I'M NOT PART OF THE METROPOLITAN AREA. I UNDERSTAND THAT. BUT I'M NOT ADVERSE TO PROVIDING RELIEF TO THAT COMMUNITY FOR THOSE. THAT'S A HUGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. I MIGHT BE IN THE MINORITY. I DON'T KNOW. BUT TO CAST THAT IT'S A ALL-EXCLUSIVE RURAL AND URBAN DIVIDE, I JUST DON'T THINK IS ENTIRELY THE CASE. I THINK WE SHOULD BE JUDGED ON HOW WE ACT UPON THINGS AND, QUITE FRANKLY, WE'VE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE AND PERHAPS WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT THAT ISSUE NEXT YEAR. I DON'T THINK IT IS GERMANE TO MY BILL, BUT IF WE WANT TO USE THAT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES, SO BE IT. BUT I DO WANT TO JUST EMPHASIZE THAT I THINK WE'RE ALL NEBRASKA SENATORS AND WE DO CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN SCOTTSBLUFF OR IN FALLS CITY. AND IT SHOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO THE SIZE OF THE COMMUNITY OR WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE LOCATED. IT'S OUR JOB TO LOOK AFTER THEM. THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

GOVERNOR. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. SENATOR BRASCH. [LB52]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS ALL. AND BECAUSE I DO HAVE MY GUESTS THAT I SERVE IN CUMING COUNTY AND IN BURT COUNTY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, I THINK THERE IS A CHAMBER MEETING HERE, BUT ESPECIALLY THOSE IN BURT COUNTY THIS MORNING I DO FEEL COMPELLED TO STAND. AND, FOR ONE, I DO NOT SUPPORT THE BRACKET. I DO SUPPORT LB52. BUT FOR MY COLLEAGUE AND FRIEND SENATOR CHAMBERS, I WANTED TO JUST ASK HIM TO BE NICE. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. HOWEVER, I DID WANT TO SAY THAT RURAL NEBRASKANS DO CARE FOR ALL OF NEBRASKA, EVERY SINGLE ONE IN THIS STATE, 1.8 MILLION INDIVIDUALS. AND THOSE LIKE SENATOR BURKE HARR AND OTHERS AND BEHIND ME WHO ARE FROM OMAHA, SENATOR COASH FROM LINCOLN, YOU MAY DISCOVER THAT SOME OF YOUR NEIGHBORS OR YOUR WIFE, FOR EXAMPLE, AS SENATOR COASH, SHE CAME FROM THE FARM. HE CAME FROM THE FARM. THEIR GRANDPARENTS LIVE ON THE FARM. WE CARE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN LINCOLN, IN OMAHA, AND ON OUR FARM. AND AS SENATOR CHAMBERS, THE LION IS ROARING ABOUT TAXES AND PARTICULARLY THE PROPERTY TAXES, I IMAGINE, IS THAT HE...I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WE'RE NOT ASKING FOR ANY FAVORS. WE WANT FAIRNESS. AND I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL BE FAIR IN LOOKING AT ALL OF THE FACTS AND WHERE TAXATION MAY PERHAPS BE DISPROPORTIONATE THAT THAT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION. AND ON THE FARM AND IN TOWN AND IN THE CITY, I BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING THAT WE POSSESS AND THAT'S CALLED CONSCIENCE. WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG. WE ARE A PEOPLE OF PRINCIPLES. SOME OF US WERE NOT BORN ON THE FARM, BUT HAVE GROWN TO LOVE THE FARM AND OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES, AND AS THEIR SENATORS WE, TOO, WILL STAND UP TO WORK FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF NOT ONLY OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES BUT THE ENTIRE STATE. AND FOR OUR VISITORS HERE, THEY'VE ASKED ME TO SPEAK DURING LUNCH ON WHAT EXACTLY DO WE DO HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE. NO, WE DO NOT STAND AND CONDEMN PEOPLE FOR THEIR VOCATION, THEIR OCCUPATION, WHERE THEY LIVE, AND WHO THEY SERVE. WE SERVE ALL OF NEBRASKA. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED TO ME THAT YOU ARE EXTREMELY KIND TO CHILDREN. AND THOSE CHILDREN GO HOME, THEY LEAVE THIS CAPITOL, AND THEY GO TO ALL CORNERS OF THIS STATE. AND SOME OF THEIR PARENTS OR GRANDPARENTS MAY BE TAXED DISPROPORTIONATELY. SO IN CONSIDERATION OF THOSE CHILDREN, I ASK YOU TO LOOK AT OUR TAX BILLS WITH AN OPEN MIND AND PERHAPS AN OPEN HEART. I DO WANT TO WELCOME EVERYONE TO THIS CAPITOL AND MAKE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

THEM ALWAYS FEEL WELCOME AND KNOW THAT WE WORK HERE FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLE, REGARDLESS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ME AND MY COLLEAGUES IS THAT I SEE LIFE AS A WHOLE, LIFE AS A CONTINUUM. IT'S LIKE THE SPIDER WEB, THOSE THAT ARE BUILT LIKE AN ORB. THE SPIDER BUILDS IT IN SUCH A WAY AND ARRANGES THOSE THREADS THAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS ON THE FARTHEST SIDE OF THE WEB, IT'S TRANSMITTED THROUGH THOSE WEBS TO WHERE THE SPIDER IS IN THE MIDDLE. SO WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THIS WEB OF LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATING, I PAY ATTENTION TO, BECAUSE IT'S GOING TO COME BACK. AND MY COLLEAGUES CAN PIGEONHOLE AND SEPARATE AND CLASSIFY AND TAKE ONE DISTINCT ITEM AND LOOK AT IT. BUT TO ME, IT'S NOT A DISTINCT, DISCRETE SEPARATE ITEM; IT'S PART OF A WHOLE. IF YOU HAVE A STACK OF BRICKS, THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE. BUT WHEN YOU PUT THOSE IN A CERTAIN CONFIGURATION AND PUT MORTAR BETWEEN THOSE BRICKS AND STACK THEM, YOU MAKE A WALL. AND NOW WHEREAS YOU HAD A MULTITUDE OF INDIVIDUAL ITEMS, YOU HAVE A STRUCTURE WHICH IS GIVEN A TERM THAT MEANS IT IS NOW ONE. OUT OF THOSE MANY CAME ONE. WHAT DOES E PLURIBUS UNUM MEAN? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? PEOPLE STATE THESE CLICHES, THEY ARTICULATE THE MODELS, BUT THEY ARE NEVER APPLIED. AND I SEE LIFE DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY EVERYBODY ELSE DOES APPARENTLY. BUT IF YOU'RE LIVING YOUR LIFE ACCORDING TO THE WAY YOU SEE IT AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING LEADS YOU TO GO A CERTAIN DIRECTION, UNDERSTAND THAT I DON'T SEE LIFE THROUGH YOUR EYES. I SEE THEM THROUGH MINE. AND I WILL FOLLOW WHERE MY MIND TELLS ME I OUGHT TO GO. AND ON EYES, SOMETHING KIND OF IRONIC OR INTERESTING, THE EYE WHICH BEHOLDS EVERYTHING ELSE CANNOT SEE ITSELF. SOMETIMES PEOPLE ARE TOO CLOSE AND TOO CAUGHT UP IN ONE THING TO SEE WHAT'S CALLED THE BIG PICTURE. NOW THAT SENATOR SCHEER IS BACK, I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, WOULD YOU YIELD TO QUESTIONS? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: CERTAINLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR SCHEER, WHEN YOUR BILL CAME UP ON THE AGENDA THIS MORNING, WHAT WAS THE BEST THING, IN YOUR OPINION, THAT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR BILL? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: IT WOULD BE PASSED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SAY IT AGAIN? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: IT WOULD BE PASSED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THIS MORNING, TODAY, AT THIS STAGE, WHAT IS THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN WITH YOUR BILL, IN YOUR OPINION? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: YOU'D WITHDRAW THE BRACKET AND TO PASS THE BILL. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NO, THAT'S NOT THE BEST THING. ISN'T THAT THE BEST THING HAVING IT ADVANCE TO THE NEXT STAGE OF DEBATE? ISN'T THAT THE BEST THING ULTIMATELY THAT COULD HAPPEN? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: WELL, IT IS BUT ULTIMATELY FIRST THINGS FIRST. YOU WOULD HAVE TO REMOVE THE BRACKET. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT'S ASKED. THAT'S WHY PEOPLE FLUNKED LAW SCHOOL EXAMS BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LOOK AT THE QUESTION, SEE WHAT IS BEING ASKED AND ANSWER THE QUESTION. THEY WOULD ALTER... [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: BUT DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A LAW SCHOOL EXAM. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: EXCUSE ME, THEY WOULD ALTER... THAT'S WHY I'M EXPLAINING THIS BECAUSE I WENT THERE, AND IT APPLIES TO ANYBODY WHO TAKES AN EXAMINATION. THEY ALTER THE QUESTION, AND THEN THEY ANSWER THE ALTERED VERSION AND FAIL TO ANSWER WHAT WAS ASKED. AND WHEN THEY GET IT WRONG, THEY ARE SURPRISED. SO I TOLD THEM THAT THEY OUGHT TO SIT ON THEIR HANDS FOR THE FIRST TEN MINUTES, READ EVERY QUESTION, MAKE SURE THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S BEING ASKED, THEN THEY COULD DO LIKE I DO. ANSWER THE QUESTION AND YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ONE TO LEAVE THE CLASS, THE EXAMINATION ROOM, AND YOU'LL PASS EVERY TEST AND EVERY CLASS. ISN'T THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO YOUR BILL, THAT IT BE ADVANCED TO THE NEXT STAGE OF DEBATE? [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHEER: ABSOLUTELY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW, DOES IT MATTER IN ACHIEVING THAT BEST RESULT WHETHER IT HAPPENS AT 10:59 OR 11:59? [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT DOESN'T MATTER, JUST SO IT MOVES. ISN'T THAT TRUE? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: ABSOLUTELY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE THE ONE TO KEEP IT FROM MOVING THIS MORNING, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE USE OF THE TIME. OH, THAT'S ALL I'LL ASK OF YOU. THANK YOU. [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M NOT THROUGH. I'M THROUGH WITH SENATOR SCHEER. I COULD DIE BEFORE THE NEXT STAGE OF DEBATE. SENATOR SCHEER COULD DIE AND MAYBE SOMEBODY WOULD TAKE HIS BILL OR THE WORLD COULD END AND NONE OF US WOULD BE HERE. SO THE ONLY TIME WE HAVE FOR ACTING IS IN THE INSTANT, RIGHT NOW. AND IF YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE AN INSTANT AT A TIME, PLAN AS FAR AHEAD AS YOU WANT TO, BUT UNDERSTAND THAT YOU CAN ONLY ACT IN THIS INSTANT, THEN DO WHAT YOU THINK IS BEST TO BE DONE IN THAT INSTANT, AND THAT'S WHAT I DO FOR ME. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB52]

SENATOR JOHNSON: (MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION) I'M GOING TO SWITCH GEARS JUST A LITTLE BIT AND NOT TALK DIRECTLY ABOUT LB52 OR THE BRACKET MOTION. BUT I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER. I INTRODUCED A BILL. THIS IS BEING ABLE TO WORK TOGETHER. AND IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RURAL-URBAN, IF THAT'S THE SPLIT, YOU KNOW, THERE COULD BE OTHER SPLITS. RIGHT NOW PROBABLY TALKING ABOUT RURAL AND URBAN. WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER. I INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE THAT I FELT WAS UNFAIR TO THE RURAL AREA. THEY WERE CARVED OUT OF A BILL OR LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PROTECT THEM AS WELL DEALING WITH FIREARMS. AND I INTRODUCED THAT BILL AND THOUGHT WE SHOULD BE TREATED, WE IN THE RURAL AREA, SHOULD BE TREATED THE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SAME AS THOSE IN THE METROPOLITAN AREAS. I'M KIND OF IN A UNIQUE SITUATION WITH MY DISTRICT, AS MY DISTRICT IS THE ONLY ONE THAT BORDERS BOTH METROPOLITAN COUNTIES OR CITIES, OMAHA AND LINCOLN, LANCASTER COUNTY OR DOUGLAS COUNTY. AND I WORKED WITH A LOT OF THE PEOPLE IN OMAHA BECAUSE OF THAT SITUATION. BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS FAIR. WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE IS GOOD FOR THE GANDER. NOW THEY'RE TRYING TO SOFTEN IT FOR THE METROPOLITAN AREA, TO LOWER IT, THE STANDARDS, AND GIVE ME A LITTLE BIT WHAT I WANT. WELL, THAT'S NOT RIGHT FOR THE METROPOLITAN AREAS, I DON'T FEEL. SO WHAT'S BAD FOR THE GANDER IS BAD FOR THE GOOSE. SO I...WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET AT IS HERE WE HAVE TO LOOK AT BOTH SIDES OF IT. WE HAVE TO LOOK AT IT FROM AN URBAN STANDPOINT, WHETHER IT'S TAXATION, WHETHER IT'S ANY OTHER TYPE OF SITUATION. WE'VE GOT TO LOOK BOTH WAYS AND SEE HOW WE CAN COME UP WITH A COMPROMISE. ON LB52, IT'S A SMALL DOLLAR AMOUNT PROBABLY FOR THIS. OMAHA, LINCOLN, OUR METROPOLITAN AREAS, THE DOLLARS ARE BIGGER, BUT THE REWARD IS PROBABLY BIGGER AND IT PROBABLY MATCHES UP WITH THE SIZE OF THE POPULATION. SO, AGAIN, I WOULD OPPOSE A BRACKET BILL. BUT I WOULD ASK THAT WE TRY AND LOOK BEYOND OUR BORDERS AND TRY AND WORK TOGETHER. THANK YOU. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO BRACKET LB52. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, TO SAVE MYSELF THE TROUBLE OF WRITING ANOTHER AMENDMENT, I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS TO A VOTE. I'M GOING TO LET YOU VOTE IT DOWN, THEN I'M GOING MOVE TO RECONSIDER AND TAKE THE TIME THAT I NEED. AND SENATOR SCHEER CAN SETTLE DOWN, BECAUSE IF I'M THE ONLY IMPEDIMENT TO HIS BILL MOVING, THAT IMPEDIMENT WILL BE REMOVED BEFORE TIME IS OUT THIS MORNING. HIS BILL WILL MOVE. SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHEN? BUT AS LONG AS HIS BILL IS DISCUSSED, HE'S GOT TO STAY HERE WITH THE REST OF US. IF HIS BILL WERE MOVED, WE WOULDN'T SEE HIDE NOR HAIR OF HIM THE REST OF THE MORNING. AND THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS AROUND HERE. LOOK HOW EMPTY THE CHAMBER IS. BUT WAIT UNTIL ONE OF THESE PEOPLE WHO IS ABSENT HAS A BILL. WAIT TILL THEN. AND THEN WHEN THEY ALWAYS VOTE AGAINST CALLING THE HOUSE, SUDDENLY THEY'RE GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHY YOU CALL THE HOUSE. THAT'S TO BRING ENOUGH PEOPLE HERE TO VOTE. BUT SOME OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN...HAD IT PUT INTO THEIR HEAD THAT THE WAY THEY CAN DO SOMETHING TO ME IS VOTE AGAINST THE MOTION TO CALL THE HOUSE SO YOU SEE THE LITTLE RED LIGHTS GO UP, AND THEN THEY FEEL GOOD BECAUSE THEY CAN GO HOME AND SAY I VOTED AGAINST CHAMBERS TODAY. YOU DIDN'T VOTE AGAINST ME. YOU VOTED AGAINST THE PROCESS

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

WHICH WILL COME BACK AND BITE THEM. BUT THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. AND THEY DON'T LEARN. THEY DON'T PAY ATTENTION. BUT I'M GOING TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I THINK I OUGHT TO DO HERE EVERY SINGLE DAY. BUT NOT EVERY BILL REQUIRES THIS. LOOK HOW MANY BILLS MOVED THIS MORNING. AND THEN WE GET TO A BILL WHERE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES AND PEOPLE ARE IN SUCH A BIG HURRY TO GET OUT OF HERE, THEY DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS IT. WE START AT 9:00. WE DON'T STAY BEYOND 12:00. THAT'S THREE HOURS AND WE CANNOT SPEND THAT TIME TALKING ABOUT THE VERY IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF TAXATION? HOW DOES THE STATE OBTAIN REVENUE FOR ANYTHING? TAXATION. AND THEY'RE IN A HURRY. THEY DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN. THEY CAN ALL LEAVE HERE IF THEY WANT TO. BUT IF THEY GO TOO FAR AWAY, THAT'S WHEN I WILL ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE. AND IF WE DON'T HAVE 25 PEOPLE, WE ARE AUTOMATICALLY ADJOURNED BECAUSE WE DO NOT HAVE A QUORUM. AND THE LEGISLATURE CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT A QUORUM. SO LET THEM BE AS SMART AS THEY THINK THEY ARE. AND LET THEM FOLLOW THE ONES WHO ARE TELLING THEM TO DO THIS AND THAT PERSON WILL LEAD THEM RIGHT OUT OF THE WILDERNESS INTO THE SWAMP. AND THEN I WILL BE ON HIGH, SAFE GROUND. AND THEY WILL GET TIRED, AND I WON'T. AND WHEN THE ISSUES COME UP THAT ARE OF GREAT INTEREST TO THEM, YOU'LL SEE THEM STANDING UP, SPEAKING NOT LEARNEDLY, SPEAKING NOT WELL, BUT SPEAKING AND DOING THE BEST THAT THEY CAN WITH WHAT THEY HAVE TO WORK WITH. I WILL NOT BE TOLD HOW TO DO WHAT I THINK IS IMPORTANT. I HEARD WHAT SENATOR BRASCH SAID. NOW THEY LOVE THAT OLD MAN, RONALD REAGAN. HE USED TO BE AN ACTOR AND HE HAD A SENSE OF HUMOR, EVEN THOUGH HE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH SENSE, IN MY OPINION. BUT HE SAID ONE THING THAT I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER. HE SAID, WHEN HE WAS TALKING, THAT PEOPLE TOLD HIM THAT THEY WERE AMAZED THAT A MAN HIS AGE COULD RIDE A HORSE. AND IT SEEMED THAT HE LOOKED YOUNGER EVERY DAY. WAS RIDING THE HORSE WHAT DID THAT? AND REAGAN, HE CHUCKLED THE WAY HE DID. HE SAID, UH-UH, EVERY DAY I JUST RIDE AN OLDER HORSE. I THOUGHT THAT WAS CLEVER. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION. SO ON THIS FLOOR, WE DEAL WITH PERCEPTIONS. YOU CAN TALK ABOUT GOOSE AND GANDER ALL YOU WANT TO, BUT THOSE ARE THE AREAS WHERE YOU USE THE WORD SHOULD, IT SHOULD BE THIS WAY. IT OUGHT TO BE THIS WAY. I DEAL WITH THE REALITY OF THE WAY IT IS AND I'VE BEEN HERE AND I KNOW HOW THESE SENATORS ARE GOING TO BEHAVE WHEN WE GET TO THESE ISSUES. RURAL, URBAN, ALL OF THAT IS GOING TO COME INTO PLAY. I'M GOING TO OFFER MY MOTION TO RECONSIDER. BUT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHEER WILL GET A CHANCE TO HAVE A VOTE ON HIS BILL BEFORE WE LEAVE THIS MORNING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE DEBATE AND CLOSING ON THE BRACKET MOTION. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB52 BE BRACKETED UNTIL APRIL 15, 2015? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD, PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 3 AYES, 24 NAYS ON THE MOTION TO BRACKET, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE BRACKET MOTION FAILS. MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE JUST TAKEN. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON THE RECONSIDERATION MOTION. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WAS SAYING HOW I PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT SENATOR BRASCH SAID. I PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT SENATOR JOHNSON SAID BECAUSE THEY KIND OF BEAR IN ON WHAT I'M TRYING TO GET ACROSS THIS MORNING IN ADDITION TO TALKING ABOUT THE SUBJECT BUT HOW THINGS ARE DONE AROUND HERE. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU PROBABLY SUPPORTED RONALD REAGAN. HE QUOTED SOMEBODY. AND THAT QUOTE WAS TRUST BUT VERIFY. TRUST EVERYBODY HERE. TRUST THAT WHAT THEY SAY IS WHAT THEY MEAN. BUT VERIFY THAT IN THE REAL WORLD IT'S GOING TO BE ACTED ON IN THE WAY THEY ARTICULATED IN WORDS. THE "BIBBLE" SAYS, PRAY. BUT IT SAYS WATCH AND PRAY. YOU ALL DON'T FOLLOW ANYTHING THAT THE "BIBBLE" TELLS YOU TO DO. IT SAYS DON'T HAVE THOSE LONG PRAYERS, SO YOU PRAY A LONG TIME. USE NOT VAIN REPETITIONS AS DO THE HEATHENS WHO THINK THEY WILL BE HEARD FOR THEIR MUCH SPEAKING. SO WHAT DO YOU DO? YOU REPEAT AND YOU REPEAT AND YOU REPEAT. IT SAID DON'T PRAY IN PUBLIC. GO IN YOUR CLOSET BETWEEN YOU AND GOD BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT YOU WANT BEFORE YOU ASK. SO DON'T BE PRAYING IN PUBLIC. SO WHAT DO YOU DO? YOU HAVE PUBLIC PRAYERS UP HERE. SO NOW IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO OBEY THE ONE YOU SUPPOSEDLY WORSHIP, I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAY. BUT I'M GOING TO TELL YOU ANOTHER THING THAT HE TOLD YOU. HE SAID WATCH AND PRAY. SO WHY WHEN YOU PRAY THE FIRST THING

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

YOU SAY IS BOW YOUR HEAD AND CLOSE YOUR EYES? HOW DO YOU WATCH? YOU DON'T WATCH WHEN YOUR EYES ARE CLOSED. YOU ALL SAY THESE THINGS AND YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT THEM. BUT PEOPLE WHO WERE NOT BRAINWASHED AS YOU ALL ARE WILL LISTEN TO THE WORDS YOU SAY, THEN WATCH WHAT YOU DO, AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS IRRATIONAL. THERE IS NO LOGICAL CONNECTION BETWEEN WHAT YOU DO AND WHAT YOU SAY. THAT'S IRRATIONAL. BUT I'M ACCUSTOMED TO DEALING WITH THAT. SENATOR BRASCH IS CORRECT WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT THE FEELING THAT I HAVE FOR CHILDREN. AND I QUOTE THE ONE AGAIN THAT YOU ALL WORSHIP WHO TALKED ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HURT LITTLE CHILDREN. AND HE SAID FOR THAT PERSON IT'S BETTER THAT A MILLSTONE WERE HANGED ABOUT HIS NECK AND HE BE DROWNED IN THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HURT LITTLE CHILDREN. BUT CHRISTIANS ARE THE ONES WHO HURT THESE LITTLE CHILDREN. NOT ONLY CHRISTIANS, RELIGIOUS PEOPLE IN GENERAL ARE THE CRUELLEST PEOPLE YOU CAN FIND WHEN IT COMES TO THE WAY LITTLE CHILDREN ARE MISTREATED. SPARE THE ROD AND SPOIL THE CHILD. SO THEY BEAT THE CHILD BUT THEY DON'T WANT A COP TO GO UPSIDE THE HEAD WITH A STICK. THEY DON'T WANT CORPORAL PUNISHMENT INFLICTED ON THEM IF THEY COMMIT A CRIME. THE MILITARY SAID YOU CANNOT USE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT TO PUNISH SOMEBODY IN THE MILITARY. THEN ALL THESE CHRISTIANS SAY, WELL, THE BIBLE SAYS SPARE THE ROD, SO I BELIEVE I HAVE A RIGHT TO BEAT CHILDREN BECAUSE GOD SAID SO. THAT'S THE CRAZINESS THAT RUNS THIS SOCIETY AND THAT'S WHAT DRIVES CHILDREN FROM THEIR PARENTS, DRIVES THEM TO DRUGS, DRIVES THEM TO SUICIDE, DRIVES THEM TO CRIME. THEN THESE PEOPLE LOOK AND SAY, "WHY?" YOU CAN PREDICT WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO BASED ON THE WAY YOU MISTREAT THEM. BUT THERE'S ANOTHER VERSE. IT SAYS THE FATHERS HAVE EATEN SOUR GRAPES AND THE CHILDREN'S TEETH ARE SET ON EDGE. AND IN THIS STATE, YOU'RE FOLLOWING IT WHEN EVERY OTHER STATE HAS GOTTEN AWAY FROM IT. THERE ARE CHILDREN WHO WERE BROUGHT TO THIS COUNTRY BY THEIR PARENTS. AND THE WAY THAT THEY GOT TO THIS COUNTRY WAS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE LAWS. BUT A STATEMENT WAS MADE AT THE TOP BY THE ONE WHO COULD MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT THAT THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT GOING BE KICKED OUT OF THIS COUNTRY AND THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO GET DRIVER LICENSES. NEBRASKA IS THE ONLY STATE THAT SAYS THESE CHILDREN WILL NOT. AND THEY'RE GOING BE UP HERE PONTIFICATING ABOUT ZYGOTES AND FETUSES AND EMBRYOS. AND WHEN IT COMES TO REAL, LIVE CHILDREN, THEY SAY NO, NO, NO. AND THEY WANTED WRAP...ROUND THEM UP, PUT THEM IN PENS AND THEN THROW THEM TO THE WOLVES IN THESE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY WERE ABUSED SEXUALLY, PHYSICALLY, AND EVERY OTHER KIND OF WAY. AND THEY THOUGHT THAT THAT BIG STATUTE OF THAT BIG WOMAN OUT IN THE OCEAN HAD SOME MEANING WHEN THE WORDS SAID GIVE ME YOUR

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUNGRY, THOSE YEARNING TO BE FREE. SO THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME AND WHAT DO YOU DO? SLAM THE DOOR ON THEM AND SAY WE'RE GOING TO KICK THEIR LITTLE RUMPS OUT OF HERE. THEN YOU GOT THE NERVE TO LEAD SOMETHING ON WHAT YOU CALL A PRO-LIFE MARCH. DISGUSTING TO ME. AND I DO TALK ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE DO WHEN I'M ON THIS FLOOR. I'M NOT HERE TO BE LIKED. I'M HERE TO DISTURB PEOPLE AND TROUBLE THEIR MINDS BASED NOT ON WHAT I SAY, BUT ON WHAT THEY SAY, NOT ON WHAT I BELIEVE, BUT WHAT THEY CLAIM TO BELIEVE. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, STOP SAYING IT AROUND ME. IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TALK ABOUT RELIGION, STOP DOING THOSE PHONY PRAYERS UP THERE EVERY MORNING. YOU DON'T PRACTICE THEM. EVEN THOSE WHO GIVE THE PRAYER WILL NOT PRACTICE IT. YOU'RE SO CONCERNED ABOUT HELPING A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. BUT THEN WHEN WE HAVE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPOSEDLY OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, SENATOR HARR SAID WE HELP OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING, RURAL OR WHEREVER THEY LIVE. AND SOME OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS CANNOT GET MEDICAL CARE AND WE HAVE THE POWER TO EXPAND MEDICAID TO HELP THOSE PEOPLE WHO CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES AND WHAT DO YOU CHRISTIANS SAY WHO ARE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE LOVE OF GOD AND PRAY UP THERE. YOU SAY NO. NO. NO. NO. NO. BECAUSE I HATE PRESIDENT OBAMA MORE THAN I LOVE GOD AND CHRIST. JESUS TOLD YOU TO MINISTER TO THE SICK AND THE INFIRM. BUT YOU SAID I HATE PRESIDENT OBAMA MORE. SO JESUS CAN GO TO HELL AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED. WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT. A "REPELICAN" GOVERNOR DOWN IN TENNESSEE WAS TRYING TO EXPAND MEDICAID, NOT FOLLOWING WHAT THESE WICKED, HATEFUL PEOPLE WHO RUN HIS PARTY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND TO COUNTERACT WHAT THOSE WICKED PEOPLE WERE SAYING ABOUT IT COSTING THE STATE, YOU KNOW WHAT THE HOSPITALS IN TENNESSEE SAID? WE WILL PAY THE STATE'S PORTION. AND WHAT DID THE "REPELICAN" DOMINATED LEGISLATURE DO? OVERTURN WHAT THAT "REPELICAN" GOVERNOR WAS TRYING TO DO. AND YOU WONDER WHY I WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO SAY WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY. YOU ALL TAKE TIME AND DO BAD THINGS. THERE ARE SINS OF CO-MISSION AND SINS OF OMISSION. SO WHEN YOU ALL STAND UP HERE AND TALKING ABOUT YOU WANT TO HELP THESE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, YOU DON'T GET ANY SYMPATHY FROM ME. BUT SENATOR SCHEER WILL GET HIS PEEWEE BILL. AND THE REASON, SOMEBODY SAID THEY HAVEN'T SEEN THIS RURAL-URBAN SPLIT. WE HAVEN'T DEALT WITH ANYTHING YET. WE'RE JUST IN THE INFANCY OF THE SESSION. SO THE BIG ISSUES HAVE NOT COME OUT HERE YET. IF SENATOR FRIESEN DIES AND LEAVES LAND TO HIS HEIRS...I WANT TO ASK SENATOR FRIESEN A QUESTION IF HE'LL ANSWER BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR FRIESEN, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR FRIESEN: YES, I WOULD. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR FRIESEN, IF YOU HAPPENED TO DIE AND LEFT A LOT OF LAND TO YOUR HEIRS, WOULD THEY PAY TAXES ON THAT LAND? [LB52]

SENATOR FRIESEN: I DON'T BELIEVE THEY WOULD. THERE WOULD BE SOME TAX. I THINK THE STATE WOULD HAVE A 1 PERCENT ESTATE TAX. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. THAT'S ALL I WAS GOING TO ASK. WHO DO YOU THINK THAT KIND OF PROVISION WAS PUT IN PLACE FOR? NOT THOSE OF US WHO OWN A HOUSE, THOSE OF US WHO RENT, BUT THOSE WHO HAVE LARGE HOLDINGS. AND SOME PEOPLE MIGHT BUY SOMETHING FOR A CERTAIN COST AND IT INCREASES IN VALUE, AND IF IT'S CONSIDERED CAPITAL, THEN ANYTHING IT GAINS IN VALUE... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...CAN BE CALLED A CAPITAL GAIN, BECAUSE WHEN THEY GET IT, IT'S WORTH FAR MORE THAN IT WAS WHEN THEY FIRST BOUGHT IT. BUT THERE IS NO CAPITAL GAINS TAX ON THE INCREASE IN VALUE OF THOSE ITEMS. AND THAT BENEFITS THE WEALTHY. THE ECONOMY IS STARTING TO IMPROVE AND IT'S IMPROVING ONLY FOR THAT UPPER SLIVER AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THIS CAPITALIST COUNTRY. AND THAT'S THE WAY IT ALWAYS WILL BE. I CANNOT INFLUENCE THAT. BUT I CAN INFLUENCE WHAT HAPPENS HERE, MAYBE NOT GET EVERY BILL KILLED THAT I THINK OUGHT TO BE KILLED, BUT I CAN MAKE YOU SPEND SOME TIME ON IT. MAKE IT A LITTLE HARDER FOR YOU TO GET TO THAT UNJUST RESULT AND MAYBE EVEN CAUSE SOME PEOPLE TO THINK A LITTLE. WHEN THAT TIME COMES AS IT WILL, WHEN THE GOVERNOR BEGINS TO CRACK THE WHIP... [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: BUT YOU ARE NEXT IN LINE, SENATOR. YOU MAY PROCEED. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. WHEN THE GOVERNOR BEGINS TO CRACK THE WHIP AND WHEN THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE BEGIN TO DICTATE TO YOU, YOU'LL BE HOPPING AROUND HERE LIKE CRICKETS. HOPPING, CONFUSEDLY, CHIRPING MINDLESSLY, AND TRYING TO FIGURE WHAT YOU

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

OUGHT TO DO BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT USING YOUR OWN MIND, YOUR OWN BRAINS, OR FOLLOWING YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE. YOU'RE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL PLEASE THE ONE WHO'S GOTTEN A LEASH ON YOU AND JERKS IT. AND I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT YOU WHEN WE GET THERE. AND I WILL NOT BE NICE, UNLESS BEING NICE MEANS YOU SAY IT WITH A SMILE. BUT EVERY TIME A SERPENT OPENS ITS MOUTH, IT LOOKS LIKE A SMILE. BUT THE SERPENT OR THE SNAKE HAS GOTTEN A BAD RAP TOO. SNAKES ARE NOT ONLY SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ANIMALS, THEY ARE VERY HELPFUL TO FARMERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WHEN YOU HAVE A LOT OF RODENTS AND OTHER THINGS THAT MIGHT EAT ALL OF YOUR GRAIN. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN INDIA WHO WANT COBRAS ON THEIR PLACE. AND THERE, THEY'VE SHOWN THIS ON SOME OF THESE PROGRAMS WHERE THERE ARE COBRAS WHO COME IN THE HOMES OF PEOPLE, AND THEY DON'T BITE THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE DON'T BOTHER THE COBRAS BECAUSE COBRAS DON'T EAT PEOPLE. WHEN THEY GET HUNGRY, THEY GO OUT IN THE AREA WHERE THEY KEEP THEIR GRAIN AND WHATNOT AND TAKE CARE OF THOSE WHO WOULD CONSUME THE GRAIN. BUT WHEN YOU CAN GET BRAINWASHED TOWARD ANYTHING LIVING OR NONLIVING, THEN YOU BEHAVE TOWARD THOSE THINGS IN A WAY THAT IS INAPPROPRIATE. AND I'M DEALING WITH STEREOTYPES ALL THE TIME. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO ALONG WITH THEM AND PRETEND EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT WHEN IT'S NOT JUST SO THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTING ON THE BASIS OF THOSE STEREOTYPES WILL BE COMFORTABLE. IF I FELT THAT IN ORDER FOR MY DAY TO BE A GOOD DAY, I'D HAVE TO COME HERE AND START WITH SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND GO ALL THE WAY AROUND UNTIL I COVERED EVERY ROW AND SLAP EVERYBODY. HOW MANY OF YOU ALL WOULD GO FOR THAT? MAYBE SOME OF YOU, BECAUSE YOU'D BE STUNNED. BUT BY THE TIME I GOT "GENERAL" GARRETT, HE'S A MILITARY MAN, HE'S WATCHING WHAT'S HAPPENING. AND HE'S NOT GOING TO JUST SIT THERE AND LET ME COME AND SLAP HIM. THAT'S THE WAY PEOPLE WANT ME TO BE. AND WHAT THEY'VE BEEN DOING LATELY IS CALLING MY OFFICE. AND I'VE TOLD CINDY, DON'T TALK TO THESE IDIOTS, HANG UP IMMEDIATELY. THE SLURS, THE CURSING, BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING ON THE FLOOR. I'M NOT HARD TO FIND. I DON'T HAVE BODYGUARDS. I PARK IN THE SENATOR'S PARKING LOT. SO CONFRONT ME AND HIT ME IN MY MOUTH OR WHATEVER YOU THINK YOU'RE BIG ENOUGH TO DO. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO CALL ON THE TELEPHONE AND CURSE OUT A WOMAN BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT I SAY. AND I'M SUPPOSED TO COME ON THIS FLOOR AND ACT LIKE EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT, NOT JUST BECAUSE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO CINDY, BUT I KNOW WHAT THE ATTITUDE OF PEOPLE IN THIS STATE IS. AND I KNOW ABOUT THE HYPOCRISY ON THIS FLOOR. AND I SEE HOW PEOPLE WILL BACK AWAY FROM ISSUES TO ACCOMMODATE EACH OTHER. THEY THINK THERE'S GOING TO BE A QUID PRO QUO. SENATOR HARR IS EXTREMELY NAIVE IF HE THINKS THAT SUPPORTING

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

BILLS LIKE SENATOR SCHEER'S BILL IS GOING TO MAKE THESE PEOPLE IN THE RURAL AREAS LOOK FAVORABLY ON ANYTHING THAT HE BRINGS HERE. THAT'S SO NAIVE IT BORDERS ON FOOLISHNESS. AND IF IT WASN'T SENATOR HARR WHO I THINK IS GENUINELY NAIVE, I WOULD USE A HARsher TERM TO DESCRIBE IT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHAT HE DEMONSTRATES IS THAT A PERSON CAN LIVE ON THIS EARTH A LONG TIME AND WANT SO BADLY TO SEE THINGS DONE IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD THAT HE WILL CONVINCe HIMSELF THAT THAT IS WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF HE LETS PEOPLE WALK ON HIM. IN TIME, THEY'LL GET TIRED OF IT AND THEY WON'T DO IT. THEIR SENSE OF JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS HASN'T STOPPED HIM ALL THESE YEARS, BUT MAYBE NEXT YEAR WHEN HE COMES. WHY DOES HE THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT THEN FROM WHAT THEY ARE NOW? THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, AND YOU ARE NEXT, SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND BY THE WAY, WHEN I FINISH UP ON THIS MOTION, THEN I'M GOING TO LET SENATOR SCHEER'S BILL ALONE. BUT I'M GOING TO WATCH HIS CHAIR FOR THE REST OF THE TIME WE'LL BE HERE THIS MORNING TO SEE IF HE IS AS ATTENTIVE TO WHAT WE'RE DOING THEN AND IF HE'S GOING TO STAY IN HIS CHAIR. OH, YES, I CALL PEOPLE OUT. YOU CAN CALL ME OUT. YOU SHOULD. BUT I'M GOING TO BE WATCHING. AND I'M GOING TO BE LIKE SANTA CLAUS. I'M GOING TO MAKE MY NOTE AND I'M CHECKING IT TWICE. AND I'M GOING TO WRITE DOWN THE TIME THAT HE LEAVES AND THE TIME THAT HE COMES BACK. BUT IN ORDER TO SEE SENATOR SCHEER, THERE'S SEVERAL OTHER PEOPLE I WILL LOOK AT FIRST. LOOK AT ALL THESE EMPTY CHAIRS. LOOK AROUND YOU. GOOD THING WE'RE NOT PAID ON THE BASIS OF BEING AT OUR POST, ISN'T IT? ISN'T IT? BUT THAT'S THE WAY THE LEGISLATURE IS. AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE HAVE A REASON, LEGITIMATE REASON, TO BE AWAY FROM THE FLOOR. EVERYTHING IS GOING TO CONTINUE. AND NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT THIS MORNING, WHEN THE SESSION IS OVER, EVERYTHING THAT WE NEEDED TO DO WILL HAVE BEEN DONE. NOT EVERYTHING THAT EVERYBODY WANTED TO DO, BUT EVERYTHING THE LEGISLATURE NEEDED TO DO WILL BE DONE. SENATOR MELLO IS RESTING UP NOW BECAUSE WHEN THE BUDGET COMES, HE'S GOING TO BE VERY, VERY BUSY. AND A BUDGET WILL BE BUILT, A BUDGET WILL BE PASSED. THE GOVERNOR WILL DETERMINE WHICH THINGS HE'S GOING TO AGREE TO AND WHICH ONES HE WILL DISAGREE WITH. AND WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHETHER WE BACK UP WHAT WE PUT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

IN TO THAT BUDGET ENOUGH TO OVERCOME THE GOVERNOR. IF WE'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF LITTLE JIMINY CRICKETS HOPPING AND CHIRPING AROUND HERE. AND HE'LL PULL THEM BY THE COLLAR BECAUSE AFTER THEY'VE BEEN HERE A WHILE THEY'LL GET A NOTION OF HOW MUCH POWER A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE HAS AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. AND HE'LL SAY, BUT I HELPED YOU GET THAT OFFICE. IF I HADN'T HELPED YOU, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE THERE. DON'T FORGET WHERE YOU CAME FROM AND DON'T FORGET WHO HELPED YOU GET THERE AND THE ONE WHO GAVE IT CAN TAKE IT BACK. YOU THINK THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN IN POLITICS? YOU ALL CANNOT BE REAL. YOU CANNOT DEAL WITH REALITY. SO I TRY TO REMIND YOU. AND NOT JUST REMIND YOU, BUT TO SHOW YOU. THERE IS SO MUCH GOOD THAT WE COULD DO IF WE WOULD. YOU JUST UNDERLINED WHAT WE'RE NOT DOING EVERY TIME ONE OF YOU GOES UP THERE AND PRAYS OR YOU HAVE SOMEBODY COME FROM THE OUTSIDE AND PRAY. I'D LIKE TO ASK...I GOT TO FIND SOMEBODY WHO UNDERSTANDS SOMETHING ABOUT COMPUTERS. HOW MUCH TIME DO I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT? [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: TWO MINUTES, SENATOR. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. OH, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, I'D LIKE TO ASK "PROFESSOR" SCHUMACHER A QUESTION HERE. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: SURE WILL. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. "PROFESSOR," HAVE YOU HEARD OF AN...WHATEVER YOU CALL IT, CALLED TWITTER? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: I HAVE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH IT? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: NOT REALLY. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ARE THERE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF CHARACTERS THEY WANT YOU TO LIMIT YOUR MESSAGES TO? [LB52]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: I THINK IT'S LIKE 144. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: 144. WHICH ONE LIMITS YOU TO 42 OR ARE THERE NONE THAT WOULD LIMIT YOU TO THAT FEW? [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: I DON'T KNOW. THERE'S PROBABLY EVERY DIFFERENT BREED OF THAT OUT THERE THAT SOMEBODY WHO'S TRYING TO MAKE MONEY CAN IMAGINE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, VERY MUCH. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M GOING TO OFFER A RULES CHANGE BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT PRAYING IN YOUR RULES. I WANT TO MODIFY THAT RULE SO THAT NO PRAYER CAN CONSIST OF MORE THAN 142, OR WHATEVER THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERS YOU CAN USE. IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR TWITTER, GOOD ENOUGH FOR THIS LEGISLATURE. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND ANYTHING THEY GOT TO SAY THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO SAY IN 142 WORDS BECAUSE IF YOU'RE PRAYING TO GOD, HE KNOWS WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SAY AND WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE YOU EVEN ASK AND HE KNOWS YOU DON'T MEAN IT, SO HE TUNES YOU OUT. SO THEY MUST BE PRAYING TO US. AND NOBODY IS IN THE CHAMBER. TWO OR THREE PEOPLE WHO STUMBLE IN HERE AND FORGET THAT THE PRAYER HASN'T BEEN DONE AND THEY'RE TOO EMBARRASSED TO LEAVE. SO THEY SAY, WELL, IT AIN'T GOING TO KILL ME. AIN'T GOING TO HELP ME, WON'T HURT ME. AND THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. AND BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT, I'LL WIND IT UP. IS THIS MY LAST TIME SPEAKING? [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: IT IS, SENATOR. WELL, YOU HAVE ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSE. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I WILL WAIT FOR THAT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB52]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND SINCE I'VE SAID AS MUCH AS I WANT TO SAY OR NEED TO SAY THIS MORNING ABOUT THE TAXES, I WILL JUST KIND OF GO OVER THIS THING OF PRAYER A LITTLE BIT MORE. THE "BIBBLE" SAYS THE FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN ACCOMPLISHES MUCH. NOTHING IS AVAILED BY YOUR PRAYERS. SO BASED ON THE FORMULA IN THE "BIBBLE," YOU'RE NOT RIGHTEOUS, YOUR PRAYER IS NOT FERVENT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T DO ANYTHING. NOW BLAME THAT ON THE "BIBBLE," NOT ME. DON'T KILL THE MESSENGER. ISN'T THAT THE WAY IT SHOULD BE? YOU MAD AT WHO'S GOING TO LAY OUT THE MESSAGE SO YOU TAKE IT OUT ON ME. IF

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

JESUS WALKED DOWN THIS CORRIDOR, WOULD YOU GO SLAP HIM? BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE IT WHEN I SAY IT. WELL, HERE COMES THE ONE WHO SAID IT FIRST. AND HE WALKS DOWN HERE IN HIS ROBES AND HIS LONG HAIR AND LOOKING MORE LIKE ME THAN HE LOOKS LIKE YOU. DARK, LIKE ME. NOT LIKE YOU ALL. WOULD YOU SLAP HIM? AND IF YOU SLAPPED HIM, WOULD IT BE BECAUSE HE HAS HAIR COARSE LIKE A LAMB'S WOOL OR BECAUSE HE'S DARK OR WOULD IT BE BECAUSE HE SAID THINGS THAT YOU DON'T LIKE THAT I QUOTE SO OFTEN. YOU'D SAY, OH, HE'S THE ONE WHO DID IT. WELL, NOW I KNOW WHY THEY HUNG HIM UP ON THAT TREE. AND MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE JESUS LOOKED MORE LIKE US THAT THESE CHRISTIANS HUNG US, HANGED US, AND DO IT NOW WHEN THEY CAN FROM TREES. THAT'S OUR HISTORY IN THIS COUNTRY. YOU'RE SO UPSET, AND AMERICA IS, ABOUT THE JORDANIAN PILOT BEING BURNED ALIVE, WHICH IS HORRIBLE. BUT HE HAD THE EXAMPLE OF THE CATHOLIC INQUISITION WHERE THEY BURNED PEOPLE ALIVE AT THE STAKE REGULARLY. AND THEY WERE PUBLIC, RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES. I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU THE OTHER DAY WHERE THEY'RE CONDEMNING ISIS OR ISIL BECAUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH BRITISH ACCENTS CUTTING THE HEADS OFF PEOPLE. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THIS COUNTRY, THEY CUT THE HEADS OFF OF NATIVE AMERICANS AND KICKED THEM DOWN THE STREET. AND IF YOU READ HISTORY YOU'LL SEE THAT. AND THEY ALSO PUT THEM IN FRYING PANS AND PUT THE PANS OVER FIRES AND LET THE HEADS FRY. THAT'S AMERICAN WHITE CHRISTIANS WHO DID IT. THAT'S IN YOUR HISTORY BOOKS AND YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT. THEN YOU CAN SEE IT. BUT IF SOMEBODY ELSE DOES IT, YOU CONDEMN IT. BUT THEY'RE DOING WHAT YOU DID. YOU SET THE PATTERN, YOU SET THE EXAMPLE. AND THE ONES WHO DID IT ARE THOSE YOU LIONIZE TODAY. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE ISIS, ISIL, TO STOP CUTTING PEOPLE'S HEADS OFF, AS THE COLONISTS DID THE NATIVE AMERICANS, AND INSTEAD DO IT IN THE CHRISTIAN FASHION? GET A LARGE POST AND TIE THIS PERSON TO THE POST. STACK A LOT OF WOOD AND OTHER INFLAMMATORY INCENDIARY MATERIAL AT THAT PERSON'S FEET AND DROP A TORCH INTO IT. THAT'S THE CHRISTIAN WAY. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE THAT? WOULD YOU CONDEMN IT? BECAUSE YOU CAN COMPARTMENTALIZE AND SAY WHAT HAPPENS OVER HERE ON THE LEFT HAND HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT HAPPENS HERE ON THE RIGHT HAND. AND LOOK AT IT ONE WAY WHEN IT'S DONE BY CERTAIN PEOPLE, ANOTHER WAY WHEN IT'S DONE BY OTHER PEOPLE. AND THESE CONGRESSMEN RUNNING AROUND HERE, "REPELICANS" TALKING ABOUT AMERICA SHOULD GIVE MORE MONEY AND WEAPONS TO JORDAN. JORDAN DOESN'T HAVE AN ARMY TO SPEAK OF. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND WHAT WILL COME TO THEM BY A WAY OF A BLOW BACK. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB52]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THEY THINK THAT BECAUSE THEY EXECUTED SOME PEOPLE FOR REVENGE, A COUNTRY LETTING ITSELF STOOP OR BE REDUCED TO SUCH A LEVEL IS GOING TO WORK. ISIS PEOPLE CAN MOVE. THE KING OF JORDAN CANNOT MOVE HIS COUNTRY. FAR MORE CAN BE DONE AGAINST HIS COUNTRY THAN HE CAN EVER CAN DO AGAINST THESE ISIS FIGHTERS, AS THEY'RE CALLED. BUT THEY'RE YOUR LEADERS IN WASHINGTON, EMOTIONALLY CARRIED AWAY, SPEAKING NONSENSE AND INSANITY. MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL WITHDRAW THAT PENDING MOTION OF MINE. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: WITHOUT OBJECTION, THE RECONSIDERATION MOTION IS WITHDRAWN. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE ADVANCE OF LB52. [LB52]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. JUST TO REFRESH PEOPLE'S MEMORY, WE ARE VOTING ON LB52 WHICH WOULD EXCLUDE SANITARY DRAINAGE DISTRICTS FROM SALES AND USE TAX. THE FISCAL NOTE AGAIN IS INSIGNIFICANT. IT IS LESS THAN \$1,000. AND I APPRECIATE THE CONVERSATION THAT'S HAD AND THE DISCUSSION REGARDING TAXATION AND TAX POLICY DEVELOPMENT. AND WITH THAT, I WOULD URGE YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LB52. THANK YOU. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB52 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 28 AYES, 1 NAY ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB52]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB52 ADVANCES. ITEMS FOR THE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB52]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I DO. YOUR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION REPORTS LB312, LB313, LB45, AND LB181 TO GENERAL FILE. AMENDMENTS TO BE PRINTED: SENATOR HAAR TO LB177; SENATOR NORDQUIST TO LB40. HAVE AN APPOINTMENT LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR REGARDING THE BOARD OF PAROLE. AND FINALLY, YOUR COMMITTEE ON BANKING REPORTS LB180, LB298, AND LB352 TO GENERAL FILE. THAT'S ALL I

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

HAVE AT THIS TIME. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 404-408.) [LB312 LB313 LB45 LB181 LB177 LB40 LB180 LB298 LB352]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB260, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GLOOR. (READ TITLE.) BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14, REFERRED TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB260]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB260. [LB260]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING AGAIN, MEMBERS. THIS BILL AND THE ONE THAT FOLLOWS WERE BOTH BROUGHT TO US BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AS CLEANUP BILLS. AS RELATES TO LB260, ONE OF THE DUTIES OF THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR IS THE CENTRAL ASSESSMENT OF RAILROADS AND PUBLIC SERVICE ENTITIES, SUCH AS PIPELINES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES. THESE ASSESSMENTS ARE DONE IN A DIFFERENT WAY FROM THE STANDARD APPRAISAL OF A HOME OR A LOCAL BUSINESS, HARDWARE STORE, OR WHATNOT THAT YOU MAY HAVE. LB260 WOULD DO THE FOLLOWING. IT WILL ALLOW THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR TO CORRECT ERRORS AFFECTING VALUATION OF CENTRALLY ASSESSED PROPERTY, ERRORS BY TAXPAYERS OR ERRORS BY THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE. THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR HAS NO AUTHORITY TO CORRECT ERRORS UNDER CURRENT LAW ONCE THE TAX AMOUNT HAS BEEN CERTIFIED OR PAID BY THE COUNTIES. COUNTIES ALREADY HAVE THIS AUTHORITY TO CORRECT ERRORS FOR NONCENTRALLY ASSESSED PROPERTIES, AND SO THIS WOULD ALLOW THE PTA, THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR, THOSE SAME RESPONSIBILITIES, SAME RIGHTS. THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR COULD CORRECT ERRORS FOR UP TO THREE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF CERTIFICATION OR PAYMENTS TO THE COUNTY. THIS BILL PASSED THROUGH THE COMMITTEE WITH ALL 8 VOTES AND THERE WERE NO OPPONENTS. I'D ASK FOR A YES VOTE ON LB260. THANK YOU. [LB260]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB260. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON LB260. SENATOR GLOOR WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB260 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB260]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ASSISTANT CLERK: 27 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB260]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB260 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB260]

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB261, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR GLOOR. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14, REFERRED TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ATTACHED. (AM44, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 339.) [LB261]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB261. [LB261]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND AS I MENTIONED, THIS IS THE SECOND PART OF SOME OF THE CLEANUP BILLS BROUGHT TO US BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. LB261 REMOVES OBSOLETE LANGUAGE FROM WHEN THE PROPERTY TAX ADMINISTRATOR COULD ASSUME THE ASSESSMENT DUTIES OF THE COUNTIES. THEY NO LONGER DO THAT. IT ALSO REMOVES UNNECESSARY LANGUAGE REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF TOBACCO TAX INFORMATION WHICH IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL AND CLARIFIES THAT MISCELLANEOUS TAX INFORMATION, LIKE TOBACCO TAX INFORMATION, MAY BE DISCLOSED TO OTHER TAX OR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. IT CLARIFIES THAT AIR CARRIER PROPERTY IS PROTECTED FROM DISCRIMINATORY TAXATION IN A SIMILAR MANNER AS RAILROADS, CAR LINES, PIPELINE PROPERTY UNDER FEDERAL LAW. THE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THESE ENTITIES MAY NOT BE ASSESSED AT A HIGHER RATIO THAN COMPARABLE COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTIES. IF THE ASSESSMENT RATIO FOR PROTECTED INDUSTRIES IS HIGHER THAN THE COMPARABLE INDUSTRIES, THE STATE MUST EQUALIZE THE ASSESSMENTS OF THE PROTECTED INDUSTRIES. IT CLARIFIES THAT INTEREST WILL NOT BE PAID ON REFUNDS FOR RENEWABLE ELECTRIC GENERATION FACILITIES OR UNDER THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION CREDIT ACT. THIS ALSO PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AND HAD NO OPPONENTS. I'D ASK FOR A YES VOTE ON LB261. [LB261]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS FROM THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. SENATOR GLOOR, AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB261]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE SAT DOWN AND TOOK A LOOK AT THIS BILL AFTER IT WAS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED AND BEGAN VISITING WITH FOLKS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN C-BED. AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THIS ENTITY WHO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE, AS HAS THE BODY OVERALL, PROMOTING C-BED. THE ORIGINAL BILL THAT WE WERE LOOKING AT INCLUDED CHANGES TO OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE C-BED, OR COMMUNITY-BASED ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ACT. THEIR THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN OVERSIGHTS WHEN WE DRAFTED IT, AND SO IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, WE CONFIRMED THESE CHANGES WERE NOT DESIRABLE AND, THEREFORE, THE AMENDMENT STRIKES SECTION 5 AND 18. THOSE SECTIONS REFERENCE C-BED. I WOULD ASK FOR A GREEN VOTE ON THIS AMENDMENT AND THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT. [LB261]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB261. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR GLOOR WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB261. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB261]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 33 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB261]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB261, AS AMENDED. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR GLOOR IS WELCOME TO CLOSE. HE WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB261 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB261]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL. [LB261]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB261 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB261]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB271, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR EBKE. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14 OF THIS YEAR, REFERRED TO THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH COMMITTEE

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

AMENDMENTS. (AM27, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 339.) [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR EBKE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB271. [LB271]

SENATOR EBKE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AGAIN, LB271 IS A BILL THAT WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. THE IDEA BEHIND LB271 IS TO REMOVE OUTDATED AND OBSOLETE PROVISIONS FROM THE EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW AND TO CORRECT SOME INTERNAL REFERENCES. THE REASON IS THAT THE REFERENCES ARE USED TO ACCOMMODATE TRANSITIONS THAT HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN COMPLETED. THIS IS REALLY JUST A TECHNICAL BILL. IT SIMPLY REMOVES THE DATES THAT HAVE PASSED. WITH THE AMENDMENT, THERE WAS A 6-0 VOTE WITH 1 MEMBER NOT PRESENT IN THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE. JOHN ALBIN FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAS THE ONLY PROPONENT TESTIFYING. THERE WERE NO OPPONENTS OR NEUTRAL TESTIFIERS. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR EBKE. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS FROM THE BUSINESS AND LABOR COMMITTEE. SENATOR BURKE HARR, AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB271]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR. I HAVE AM27 TO LB271. AM27 REPLACES DATE REFERENCING FEDERAL LAWS AS THEY EXISTED ON JANUARY 1, 2015, RATHER THAN MARCH 2, 2001. AGAIN, THIS AMENDMENT WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY, SIMILAR TO THE BILL, BROUGHT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. SPECIFICALLY SECTION 1, PARTS (28) AND (29)(G) OF THE AMENDMENT DEFINES THE UNEMPLOYMENT TRUST FUNDS AS SUCH SECTION...AS SUCH SECTION EXISTS ON JANUARY 1, 2015, RATHER THAN MARCH 2, 2001. THE AMENDMENT REFERENCES THE IRS RULING AS SUCH RULING EXISTS ON JANUARY 1, 2015, RATHER THAN MARCH 2, 2001; ALSO SECTION 3 OF THE BILL, AS AMENDED IN PARTS (2) AND (6)(A). IT DEFINES EMPLOYMENT TO INCLUDE SERVICES PERFORMED IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIAN TRIBE AS DEFINED IN 26 U.S.C. 3306(U) AS SUCH SECTIONS EXISTED ON JANUARY 1, 2015, RATHER THAN MARCH 2, 2001. THIS BILL OR AMENDMENT CAME AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. I WANT TO THANK SENATOR EBKE FOR BRINGING THIS BILL AND I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON AM27. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB271]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, YOU'LL

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

NOTE THAT IF YOU GO TO YOUR GADGET THAT I SHOW UP AS BEING PRESENT, NOT VOTING. THAT IS BECAUSE I WAS NOT THERE FOR THE HEARING. I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS BILL WHATSOEVER AND WILL BE VOTING FOR IT. THANK YOU. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT, SENATOR HARR, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. SENATOR HARR WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT TO LB271. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB271]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 30 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB271, AS AMENDED. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR EBKE, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE ADVANCE OF LB271. [LB271]

SENATOR EBKE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAIVE CLOSING. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR EBKE. SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE DEBATE ON LB271 AND AMENDMENTS. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB271 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB271]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 29 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL. [LB271]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB271 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB271]

ASSISTANT CLERK: THE NEXT BILL, MR. PRESIDENT, LB142, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHILZ. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 9, REFERRED TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. (AM45, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 347.) [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB142. [LB142]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. GOOD MORNING AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ON THIS BILL. LB142 WOULD CREATE THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM AND IT PLACES A FEE ON MOTORBOAT REGISTRATIONS AND RENEWALS IN NEBRASKA TO FUND THE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM WOULD ALLOW THE GAME AND PARKS TO MONITOR AND SAMPLE NEBRASKA WATER FOR INVASIVE SPECIES, HIRE PERSONNEL, BUY INSPECTION AND DECONTAMINATION EQUIPMENT, PROVIDE ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION, AND RESEARCH RELATING TO AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. OBVIOUSLY, AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES DEFINED IN STATUTE ARE EXOTIC OR NONNATIVE ORGANISM THAT POSE A SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO THE AQUATIC RESOURCES, WATER SUPPLIES, OR WATER INFRASTRUCTURES OF THE STATE. THERE'S OVER 30 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES THAT PRESENTLY THREATENS OUR WATERS AND RESOURCES AND HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION, WHICH INCLUDE PHRAGMITES AND ZEBRA MUSSELS. AND OBVIOUSLY MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE HEARD ABOUT THE ZEBRA MUSSEL PROBLEM ON ZORINSKY LAKE IN OMAHA. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES HAVE BEEN GROWING IN NEW HABITATS RAPIDLY, INCLUDING OUR SURROUNDING STATES OF KANSAS AND SOUTH DAKOTA. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES POPULATIONS GROW QUICKLY AND SPREAD RAPIDLY. THEY DISPLACE NATIVE SPECIES, CLOG WATERWAYS, IMPACT MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL IRRIGATION AND POWER SYSTEMS, INCLUDING AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. THEY DEGRADE ECOSYSTEMS AND CAN CAUSE WILDLIFE AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEMS. AND I'VE GOT A HANDOUT COMING AROUND THAT YOU CAN SEE SOME OF THE ISSUES. THE BILL AUTHORIZES THE FEES OF AT LEAST \$5 BUT NO MORE THAN \$10 FOR A MOTORBOAT REGISTERING OR RENEWING IN NEBRASKA. IT WOULD ALSO REQUIRE OUT-OF-STATE MOTORBOAT OWNERS TO PAY A STAMP FEE OF AT LEAST \$10 BUT NOT MORE THAN \$15 FOR MOTORBOATS IF THEY WILL BE OPERATING IN NEBRASKA WATERS. THE FEES WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE \$330,000 COST TO THE GAME OF PARKS COMMISSION FOR CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER THE PROGRAM. I SHOULD TELL YOU THAT THERE WAS NO OPPOSITION TO THE BILL AT THE COMMITTEE HEARING, AND THE COMMITTEE ADVANCED THE BILL UNANIMOUSLY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. AS THE CLERK STATED, THERE ARE AMENDMENTS FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. SENATOR SCHILZ, AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND AM45 SIMPLY CLARIFIES THE LANGUAGE THAT CREATES THE PROGRAM AND LISTS ITS PURPOSES. IT'S TO ENSURE THAT THE FUNDS RAISED WILL BE USED SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

PURPOSE WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ENSURING THAT THE LIST OF ACTIVITIES TO BE DONE UNDER THE PROGRAM IS NOT ALL INCLUSIVE. THE WORDING IN SECTION 2 OF THE BILL WAS REWRITTEN TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR INVASIVE SPECIES ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE NOT ONLY LIMITED TO THE ACTIVITIES LISTED. THE AMENDMENT ALSO CLARIFIES THE PROPER TERM FOR WATERCRAFT THAT WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE FEE, WHICH IS "MOTORBOAT," AND THAT'S DEFINED IN STATUTE AS "WATERCRAFT PROPELLED IN ANY RESPECT BY MACHINERY." WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK YOUR FOR SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT AND THE UNDERLYING BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. SENATOR KOLOWSKI. [LB142]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL, LB142. LIVING IN AN AREA THAT HAD THIS IMPACT, HIT LAKE ZORINSKY IN SOUTHWEST OMAHA, RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF MY DISTRICT, THEY WENT THROUGH QUITE A...ABOUT AN 18-MONTH PERIOD OF ENTIRELY DRAINING THE LAKE, SITTING BARE FOR AN ENTIRE WINTER TO FREEZE OUT AND KILL ALL THE MUSSELS AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT WERE GATHERING IN THAT PARTICULAR LAKE, AND THEN REFILLING THE LAKE A YEAR LATER. IT WAS A MESS FOR QUITE A WHILE AND VERY DISTURBING TO SEE THAT HAPPEN. BUT IT HAS WORKED. THAT PARTICULAR PLAN HAS KEPT THE LAKE ZORINSKY FREE OF ADDITIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES. AND IT'S NOT JUST THE ZEBRA MUSSELS AND THOSE TYPES OF THINGS. YOU HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR THE PLANTS THAT ALSO GET IN THERE. AND I SUPPORT THIS BILL THAT HAS COME FORWARD AND I HOPE WE'LL BE ABLE TO PASS THIS AND MOVE ON. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLOWSKI. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THE LAST COUPLE YEARS KNOW MY LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR GAME AND PARKS; YOU NEW FOLKS DO NOT. I THINK THEY ARE NEGLIGENT, AND THAT'S BEING KIND, IN THE WAY THEY HANDLE THE MONEY WE GIVE THEM. I SEE THIS AS NOTHING MORE THAN ANOTHER MONEY GRAB. THEY MANAGED TO TAKE CARE OF ZORINSKY PARK (SIC) WITHOUT THIS NEW FUND THAT GIVES THEM ANOTHER BETWEEN \$250,000 AND \$500,000. THIS IS, IN MY MIND, SIMPLY ANOTHER WAY FOR GAME AND PARKS TO CREATE MORE MONEY THAT THEY CAN MISHANDLE. THANK YOU. [LB142]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND THE NEED HERE, AND JUST A COUPLE QUESTIONS FOR SENATOR SCHILZ, IF HE WOULD ANSWER. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES. [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: SENATOR SCHILZ, CAN YOU JUST TALK ABOUT THE REACH WITH THE SCOPE OF THE DOLLARS THAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HERE, \$330,000 TO GAME AND PARKS TO ADDRESS NOT ONLY THE ISSUE OF ZEBRA MUSSELS. OBVIOUSLY, I SAW ON THE STATEMENT OF INTENT THE ISSUE OF SILVER CARP, OBVIOUSLY, IS A GROWING PROBLEM. CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THEIR...WHAT THEY'VE EXPRESSED TO YOU ABOUT THEIR REACH WITH THE DOLLARS THAT WOULD BE AVAILABLE HERE AND IF THEY HAVE OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE? JUST THINKING ABOUT CONTROLLING A PROBLEM LIKE THIS, \$330,000 REALLY DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THAT BIG OF A POT. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE CORRECT IN THAT. THE \$330,000, WHILE IT IS A SIZABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY,... [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YEAH. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: ...IT IS NOT...IT'S NOT ANY...IT'S NOT ANYWHERE NEAR WHAT SOME NEIGHBORING STATES ARE SPENDING ON THIS. BUT HERE'S WHAT THAT MONEY WOULD DO FOR US TODAY. AND I THINK AS YOU LOOK AT IT, WHAT WE TRY TO DO WHEN WE ROLL THINGS OUT IS WE TRY TO BE PRUDENT,... [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: RIGHT. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: ...NOT JUST THROW MONEY AT AN ISSUE THAT WE DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY. SO WE STARTED OUT WITH THIS AMOUNT. FIRST OF ALL, AND I DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP YOUR TIME NECESSARILY... [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: NO, PLEASE. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: ...I CAN HIT MY BUTTON IF YOU NEED AND GIVE SOME

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

BACK. BUT FIRST OF ALL, WE DID THIS BECAUSE ALL OF THE MOTORBOAT REGISTRANTS THAT...WE DID A SURVEY OF ABOUT 2,000 MOTORBOAT OWNERS AND 94.6 PERCENT OF THEM WERE IN FAVOR, IN SOME FASHION, OF SOME SORT OF REGULATION AND PAYING FOR HELPING TO GET THIS DONE. THIS WILL GO FOR HIRING FOLKS FOR EDUCATION, FOR BEING ABLE TO INSPECT BOATS. AND RIGHT NOW, RIGHT NOW WE REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY PERMANENT PEOPLE TO DO THAT. THIS WILL HIRE SOME PERMANENT PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO GET THAT DONE. SO IF THAT'S YOUR QUESTION, YEAH. [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: YEAH. AND JUST KIND OF A FOLLOW-UP, SO THINKING ABOUT HOW WE'RE PAYING FOR THIS, OBVIOUSLY THE ISSUE, MY UNDERSTANDING IS WITH THE ZEBRA MUSSELS, THAT THAT IS LARGELY TRANSMITTED BY BOATS. THAT, YOU KNOW, THE SILVER CARP ISSUE, AND I KNOW THAT'S...IT CERTAINLY IS AN ISSUE ON, YOU KNOW, THE MISSOURI RIVER, AND THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS MAYBE IS TAKING ACTION. I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE WOULD HAVE DOMAIN OVER THAT. BUT THAT ISN'T AN ISSUE THAT'S CAUSED NECESSARILY BY THE BOATS THEMSELVES. THEY MAYBE FEEL THE IMPACT OF IT. SOME THOUGHTS OF ARE WE JUST HITTING JUST THIS ONE USER GROUP? SHOULD THERE BE...I GUESS I DON'T KNOW WHO ELSE SHOULD BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TO HELP CONTROL THAT POPULATION, IF IT IS A POPULATION...A PROBLEM THAT'S GROWING IN GAME AND PARKS...AREAS THE GAME AND PARKS HAS CONTROL OVER. CAN YOU KIND OF ADDRESS THAT? [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: SENATOR NORDQUIST, THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION AND THAT'S A GREAT POINT. THIS WILL NOT BE THE ONLY SOURCE OF FUNDING TO TAKE CARE OF THIS. JUST LIKE WITH ANY OTHER PROGRAM OUT THERE, A LOT OF THESE DOLLARS CAN BE LEVERAGED WITH GRANTS AND THINGS FROM THE FEDS. AND OTHER FOLKS THAT ARE INVOLVED IN HELPING TO PAY FOR THIS ARE OUR UTILITY DISTRICTS. [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: RIGHT. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THEY ARE STEPPING UP AND PUTTING MONEY TOWARDS IT AS WELL. SO IT'S NOT JUST A...IT'S NOT JUST THE BOAT OWNERS THAT WILL DO THIS. THIS IS A PARTNERSHIP TO BRING THIS TOGETHER. [LB142]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: GREAT, THANK YOU. AND I WOULD STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL. THANK YOU. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATORS NORDQUIST AND SCHILZ. MR. CLERK, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT. [LB142]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ASSISTANT CLERK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE WILL HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION UNDER THE SOUTH BALCONY NOW.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. DEBATE CONTINUES ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS TO LB142. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR SCHILZ YIELD FOR A QUESTION? [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I'D BE HAPPY TO. [LB142]

SENATOR GROENE: IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT WE'VE HAD AN INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM. I KNOW IN LINCOLN COUNTY, THEY'VE SPRAYED THE PLATTE RIVER FOR PHRAGMITES. ARE WE CREATING A DUPLICATE PROGRAM HERE OR IS THIS COMBINED? AND IS THERE...FOR THE PAST PROGRAM, WHERE WAS THE FUNDING GENERATED FROM? [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: RIGHT. THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION, SENATOR GROENE. AND LET ME TRY TO GO ABOUT THIS. WE DID HAVE A PROGRAM IN PLACE, SENATOR CARLSON HAD PASSED IT, THAT WAS AN INVASIVE WEED PROGRAM. AND THEY USED THAT, AS A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW, ON THE REPUBLICAN AS WELL AS THE PLATTE RIVER IN PLACES TO SPRAY PHRAGMITES AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES, INCLUDING SALT CEDAR. THAT FUND HAS NOT BEEN USED. THERE'S NO MONEY IN IT RIGHT NOW. THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS STILL THERE, BUT ALL THAT FUNDING IS GONE. AND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE IS TO ROLL THAT, BASICALLY, INTO THIS PROGRAM AND MOVE FORWARD WITH THAT. NOW WE DON'T HAVE AS MUCH MONEY AS THEY DID BACK THEN, BUT IT'S A START. AND THERE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT KINDS OF INVASIVE SPECIES, AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES. AND THE KIND THAT YOU TALK ABOUT, THE PLANTS, AND THEY'RE LISTED AS NOXIOUS IN NEBRASKA AND THEY'RE NOXIOUS PLANT SPECIES. AND WE'VE GOT PHRAGMITES, SALT CEDAR, AND PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE. AND SO SOME OF THOSE WOULD FALL UNDER THIS AND THIS WOULD LOOK TO TAKE OVER. NO, WE DON'T...WE DON'T NEED TO CREATE MORE PROGRAMS. WE NEED TO STREAMLINE THOSE SO THAT ONE GROUP IS TAKING CARE OF ALL OF THEM SO WE DON'T DUPLICATE EFFORTS. [LB142]

SENATOR GROENE: AND ONE MORE QUESTION. I SEE IT'S FROM \$5 TO \$10. I'M

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ASSUMING THE GAME AND PARKS DECIDES IF IT'S \$5 ONE YEAR, \$10 THE NEXT, AND DEPENDING ON WHAT THE BUDGET NEEDS? [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YEAH, THERE'S A SPACE THERE AND I'M TRYING TO THINK IF IT'S BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE VESSEL OR IF THEY HAVE THAT ABILITY TO SPREAD THAT OVER EACH VESSEL. BUT I THINK IT'S OVER...I THINK THEY HAVE THAT ABILITY TO EITHER PUT IT AT \$5, ANYWHERE BETWEEN \$5 OR \$10, BUT I'M GOING TO FIND THAT OUT FOR YOU AND LET YOU KNOW, BECAUSE I'VE GOT MY BUTTON HIT. SO I'LL LET YOU KNOW ON THAT FOR SURE. [LB142]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. THAT'S ALL I HAVE. AND IF SENATOR SCHILZ NEEDS THE TIME, HE CAN HAVE IT. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED FOR 5:00. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY. I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS SENATOR BLOOMFIELD'S COMMENTS, AND I KNOW HIS FEELINGS ON SOME OF WHAT HAPPENS OUT THERE. BUT I CAN TELL YOU THIS. IT'S SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT REASON THAT YOU TALK ABOUT THAT WE PUT THE AMENDMENT IN, TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT MONEY GOES INTO A SEPARATE ACCOUNT AND THAT IT CAN ONLY BE USED FOR THESE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES. SO WE PUT THAT INTO THE BILL. AND WE FULLY EXPECT THAT WHEN THIS MONEY IS USED, THEY ARE GOING TO BE PARTNERING WITH OTHER...OTHER AGENCIES, OTHER INDIVIDUALS OR, SHOULDN'T SAY OTHER INDIVIDUALS, OTHER AGENCIES THAT WILL...THAT WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER ON THIS. SO I THINK IT'S PRETTY SAFE THAT THIS MONEY IS GOING TO BE SPENT IN THE PROPER FASHION, AT LEAST I HOPE IT IS. AND THEN TO SENATOR GROENE'S QUESTION, AND I...THE CURRENT BOAT FEES ARE BASED ON THE SIZE, SO AS YOU GO UP IN SIZE THAT FEE WOULD GO UP. SO IT DEPENDS ON HOW LARGE YOUR BOAT IS AS TO HOW MUCH YOU PAY. AND LIKE I SAID BEFORE, WE HAVE SOME POLLING THAT'S BEEN DONE OF BOAT OWNERS AS THEY WERE ON THE LAKES AND ABOUT 95 PERCENT OF THOSE FOLKS SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED, IN SOME FASHION, TO BE ABLE TO HELP HANDLE THIS ISSUE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU, SIR. I GUESS I'M PROBABLY GETTING A LITTLE REPETITIVE HERE. I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS. MY REASON FOR SPEAKING WAS TO IDENTIFY WHAT SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, AND IT IS

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

REPETITIVE OF WHAT SENATOR SCHILZ SAID, THAT WAS THE FIRST ISSUE THAT CAME UP, BECAUSE THE BILL SAID "MAY" USE, AND WE ALL KNOW HOW THE GOVERNMENT WORKS. THAT GIVES THEM AN OUT. SO WE ASKED THAT TO BE CHANGED TO "SHALL" SO IT FORCES THEM TO USE THAT. IN ANSWER TO SENATOR NORDQUIST, THIS IS JUST SOMETHING THAT'S GOING TO HELP MITIGATE THE PROBLEM. IS THIS GOING TO SOLVE THE ISSUE? I DON'T THINK SO. AND JUST ONCE AGAIN, A REMINDER THAT THE PEOPLE THAT USE THESE WATERS, YOU KNOW, FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES, THEY HAVE AGREED, YOU KNOW, UNANIMOUS...I SHOULDN'T SAY UNANIMOUSLY, BUT THEY HAVE AGREED TO PAY THIS FEE BECAUSE THIS IS DETRIMENTAL TO THEIR LIFESTYLE AND...BUT THIS AFFECTS MORE THAN THEM. THIS AFFECTS NOT ONLY THEM; THIS AFFECTS OUR UTILITY DEPARTMENTS, IT AFFECTS AGRICULTURE, IT AFFECTS EVERYTHING. SO I AM IN SUPPORT OF THIS. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. WE'LL PASS OVER SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR SCHILZ: AND THANK YOU. AND I'LL TRY TO FINALLY GET THIS ANSWERED CORRECT FOR SENATOR GROENE. THE ORIGINAL FEE IS PLACED ON BOATS DEPENDING UPON THEIR SIZE. THIS FEE WOULD BE PLACED ON ALL BOATS, NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SIZE. SO IT WOULD BE \$5 UP TO \$10. AND OBVIOUSLY OUT-OF-STATE BOATS WOULD PAY A HIGHER FEE FOR THE STAMP THAT THEY GET TO COME INTO OUR WATER. SO JUST TO CLEAR THAT UP FOR SENATOR GROENE AND EVERYBODY ELSE SO THAT EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB142]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GLAD THE COMMITTEE HAS BEGUN TO UNDERSTAND THAT CONTROLS AND LIMITS NEED TO BE PUT ON THIS GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION OR DEPARTMENT, WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE TO CALL IT. THEY HAVE OVER THE LAST NUMBER OF YEARS SQUANDERED AWAY MORE MONEY THAN ANYBODY I KNOW OF IN NEBRASKA. THEY COME IN EVERY YEAR ASKING FOR MORE MONEY IN SOME FORM, FASHION, OR ANOTHER BECAUSE WE CAN'T TAKE CARE OF OUR PARKS, YET THEY CONTINUE TO GO OUT AND ACQUIRE MORE LAND AND REMOVE IT FROM THE PROPERTY TAX ROLLS. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN MY UNDERSTANDING, AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN, IF YOU CAN'T TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU GOT, YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T GET ANY MORE UNTIL YOU CAN. AND MAYBE IN FACT YOU SHOULD SELL OFF SOME OF WHAT YOU HAVE IN ORDER

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU ALREADY HAVE. GAME AND PARKS DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT PHILOSOPHY. I WILL BE SUPPORTING THE AMENDMENT OF THIS, THAT CUFFS THEM A LITTLE BIT. I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, THOUGH, GIVE THEM MORE MONEY. THANK YOU. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENT. SENATOR SCHILZ WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF AM45 TO LB142. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB142]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. THE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB142, AS AMENDED. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHILZ IS WELCOME TO CLOSE ON LB142. SENATOR SCHILZ WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB142 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB142]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 AYES, 1 NAY ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL. [LB142]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB142 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB142]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB142A, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCHILZ. (READ TITLE.) [LB142A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB142A. [LB142A]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. ONCE AGAIN, THIS WON'T ACTUALLY SPEND ANY GENERAL FUND DOLLARS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT. IT IS JUST AN APPROPRIATION THAT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALLOW GAME AND PARKS TO UTILIZE THIS MONEY ONCE IT IS ACCEPTED. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND APPROVAL OF THIS BILL. THANK YOU. [LB142A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB142A. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE

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Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

WELCOME TO CLOSE ON LB142A. SENATOR SCHILZ WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB142A TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB142A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 AYES, 1 NAY ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE A BILL. [LB142A]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB142A ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB142A]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT BILL IS LB160, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR LARSON. (READ TITLE.) BILL WAS READ ON JANUARY 12, REFERRED TO THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB160]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR LARSON, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB160. [LB160]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. LB160 IS VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD. STATE LAW CURRENTLY ALLOWS FOR GIFT ENTERPRISES FOR CONSUMER PROMOTIONS. IN 2011 THIS BODY PASSED LB524 TO ALLOW CREDIT UNIONS TO CONDUCT SAVINGS PROMOTION RAFFLES AS A FORM OF GIFT ENTERPRISES. THESE RAFFLES ARE INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE CUSTOMERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR SAVINGS ACCOUNTS BY THEN BEING ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE. AT THE TIME, LB524 ONLY APPLIED TO CREDIT UNIONS, BECAUSE FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITED OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FROM CONDUCTING SUCH RAFFLES. SINCE THE PASSAGE OF LB524, THE FEDERAL LAW WAS CHANGED TO OTHER FINANCIAL...SO OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS COULD CONDUCT SUCH RAFFLES. THEREFORE, ALL THIS BILL DOES IS TO ALLOW ALL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO CONDUCT THESE SAVINGS PROMOTION RAFFLES AND HELP PEOPLE ACROSS NEBRASKA SAVE MORE MONEY. THANK YOU. [LB160]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR LARSON. DEBATE IS NOW OPEN ON LB160. SEEING NO SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR LARSON WAIVES CLOSING ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB160. SO THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB160 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB160]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 35 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL. [LB160]

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB160 ADVANCES. WE RETURN TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB160]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB241, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR STINNER. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14, REFERRED TO THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR STINNER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON LB241. [LB241]

SENATOR STINNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I AM OVER HERE. MY BUNKMATE IS GETTING ORGANIZED SO I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERFERE WITH HIM. IT'S A PLEASURE TO PRESENT A BILL WHOSE CONCEPT ORIGINATED IN MY DISTRICT. THE INTENT OF THE BILL IS TO ELIMINATE AN UNNECESSARY REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW AND THE BILL SAVES THE COST OF MAKING DUPLICATE FILINGS BY CEMETERIES THAT HAVE THEIR OWN DETAILED RECORDKEEPING SYSTEMS. IN SUMMARY, LB241 REPEALS A REQUIREMENT TO RECORD A DEED AT THE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS WHEN ISSUED BY A CITY OF PRIMARY CLASS, A CITY OF FIRST CLASS, A CITY OR A VILLAGE OR A CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FORMED BY A CITY OR VILLAGE, IN OTHER WORDS FROM 0 TO 300,000. INTERESTINGLY, IF YOU'RE PRIVATELY OWNED, LIKE A CATHOLIC CEMETERY OR THE VETERANS' CEMETERY, YOU DO NOT HAVE THIS REQUIREMENT. YOU'RE NOT COVERED UNDER THIS LAW. I SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE CITIZENS AND/OR CEMETERY MAY STILL FILE SUCH A DEED IF THEY SO DESIRE. JEAN BAUER, A REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, PROVIDED ME A HISTORY AND AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT LB241 IS INTENDED TO DO. AS SHE STATES BEST, LB241 IS...IF LB241 IS PASSED, IT WOULD ALLOW CEMETERIES WITHIN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA TO BYPASS THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE IN ISSUING CEMETERY DEEDS OR CERTIFICATES AND, INSTEAD, USE THEIR OWN RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM TO TRACK WHO THE LOTS ARE OWNED BY AS WELL AS WHO IS BURIED IN THE LOTS. THE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS ONLY RECORDS WHO OWNS THE LOTS. IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU BOUGHT FOUR LOTS AND IT WAS NOW, REGISTER OF DEEDS WOULD TAKE THAT. THAT WOULD BE THE ONLY RECORD IS, OF OWNERSHIP, IN THEIR RECORDS. THE CEMETERIES HAVE DETAILED MAPS AND PLATS OF THE CEMETERY AND TRACK NOT ONLY THE OWNER OF THE LOT BUT ALSO WHO IS BURIED IN THE LOT. I AM ADVISED THAT MOST CITY AND CEMETERY ASSOCIATION CEMETERIES HAVE EXCELLENT RECORDS ON BOTH WHO OWNS THE LOT AND WHO IS BURIED. THE SAME IS TRUE OF THE VETERANS' CEMETERIES. NO MAYOR OR CITY COUNCIL WANTS A MISTAKE CONCERNING WHO OWNS THE CEMETERY LOT OR WHO IS BURIED

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

IN THE LOT. THE RECORDS OF THE CEMETERY ARE SELF-POLICING WITH COUNCIL AND/OR VILLAGE BOARD OVERSIGHT, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTION. JEAN GOES ON TO STATE IF CEMETERIES DO NOT HAVE A RECORDKEEPING SYSTEM OF THEIR OWN, LB241 WOULD ALLOW THE CEMETERIES TO CONTINUE TO RECORD THESE DEEDS OR CERTIFICATES THE SAME WAY THEY HAVE DONE FOR YEARS. IN ADDITION FOR THOSE CEMETERIES WHO WOULD CHOOSE TO BYPASS THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE, THE INDIVIDUAL WHO RECEIVES THE DEED OR CERTIFICATE COULD STILL COME AND REGISTER IT WITH THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OFFICE. LB241 WAS SUPPORTED BY THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS AND THE LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES. NO ONE SAW THE NEED TO DUPLICATE RECORDS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES AND THE REGISTER OF DEEDS. I ALSO WANT TO NOTE...POINT OUT SOMETHING ELSE SHE SAID. WHEN A PERSON RECEIVES A DEED FROM A CEMETERY, THEY ARE NOT RECEIVING TITLE TO THE LAND. ALL THEY'RE...THE ONLY THING THE PERSON IS RECEIVING OR GETTING IS A RIGHT TO BE BURIED THERE. I THINK THAT'S AN IMPORTANT DISTINCTION. THEREFORE, NO CEMETERY LOTS ARE EVER COVERED UNDER TITLE INSURANCE. IN RECENT YEARS, SEVERAL CEMETERIES HAVE SWITCHED FROM ISSUING DEEDS, WHICH I THINK WE ALL GET CARRIED AWAY WITH WHAT A DEED IS, TO CERTIFICATES. I JUST WANT TO KIND OF GO THROUGH THE PROCEDURE TODAY BECAUSE IF YOU HAVEN'T...IF YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH IT, IF YOU WALK IN, FOR AN EXAMPLE, IN MORRILL, NEBRASKA, WHICH IS A VILLAGE, THEY HAVE A CEMETERY. SO YOU WALK IN AND YOU WANT TO PURCHASE FOUR OR FIVE LOTS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS. YOU WOULD GET A CERTIFICATE FROM MORRILL, FROM THE CEMETERY. IT WOULD BE STAMPED BY THE VILLAGE. IT WOULD HAVE THE...WELL, IN A CITY SITUATION YOU WOULD HAVE A MAYOR, BUT IN A VILLAGE SITUATION YOU WOULD HAVE THE PRESIDENT OF THE VILLAGE BOARD SIGN IT, THE CLERK. THEY WOULD THEN TAKE IT BACK TO SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY. NOW THEY CAN DRIVE 25 MILES OR THEY CAN...THEY COULD MAIL IT, I GUESS. BOTH OF THEM TAKE SOME TIME AND MONEY. BUT THEY WOULD THEN FILE IT WITH THE REGISTER OF DEEDS AND IT COSTS \$10 PER LOT TO FILE. SO WE'RE TRYING TO ELIMINATE THE \$10. WE'RE TRYING TO ELIMINATE THE EXTRA COST OF REGULATION IN THIS BILL. AND IT'S REALLY A CERTIFICATE THAT YOU'RE RECEIVING. ANYHOW IF THE...AFTER THE HEARING, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT A QUESTION ABOUT STANDARDS OR LACK OF STANDARDS FOR RECORDKEEPING FOR THE CEMETERY LOTS WAS RAISED. WE ARE ADVISED THIS QUESTION LEADS TO 2 OPPOSING VOTES AND 1 PRESENT...1 THAT WASN'T PRESENT, NOT VOTING, IN THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT. I WOULD RESPOND TO THEIR TESTIMONY AS FOLLOWS. THE CEMETERY RECORD SYSTEM OF MUNICIPALITIES ARE VERY DETAILED AND RECORD EXACTLY WHAT'S HAPPENING, AND THERE IS OVERSIGHT AND AUDIT OVERSIGHT BY THE CITY OR THE VILLAGE. IF AN INADEQUACY EXISTS, IT

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

SHOULD BE ADDRESSED BY OTHER LEGISLATION SPECIFIC TO THE PROBLEM. THE CHANGES MADE BY LB241 ARE BENEFICIAL AND I URGE FELLOW MEMBERS TO SUPPORT LB241. THANK YOU. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR STINNER. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB241]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WOULD SENATOR STINNER YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB241]

SENATOR STINNER: YES, I WOULD. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: SENATOR STINNER, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB241]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: SENATOR STINNER, I HAVE NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO YOU THIS ABOUT OFF THE MIKE SO I WILL LATER. BUT I'M INCLINED TO BRING AN AMENDMENT TO THIS THAT WOULD INCLUDE RURAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATIONS. UP IN OUR PART OF THE WORLD WE HAVE A LOT OF LITTLE CEMETERIES, SOME OF WHICH HAVE MAYBE BEEN TECHNICALLY ABANDONED BUT ARE TRYING TO COME BACK. WE PASSED A BILL LAST YEAR THAT ALLOWS A NEW ASSOCIATION TO FORM AND TAKE OVER ONE OF THESE CEMETERIES. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THOSE INCLUDED. AND IF YOU'RE WILLING TO VISIT, I WILL VISIT WITH YOU BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT ABOUT THAT. [LB241]

SENATOR STINNER: I WOULD SUPPORT THAT AMENDMENT. I WILL TELL YOU THIS, THAT THIS REALLY JUST IS FROM VILLAGES TO CITIES OF 300,000. THEY WERE THE ONLY ONES THAT WERE INCLUDED IN THIS LEGISLATION. SO THOSE RURAL CEMETERIES MAY BE OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT WAS CONTEMPLATED IN THE LEGISLATION. SO I THINK SOMEBODY SMARTER THAN ME WOULD HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS. [LB241]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: WE WILL GET OUR LA'S TOGETHER... [LB241]

SENATOR STINNER: OKAY. [LB241]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: ...AND SEE IF WE CAN FIGURE OUT AN AMENDMENT THAT WOULD WORK. THANK YOU. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND STINNER. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB241]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING,

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'M GOING TO STAND AND ADMIT I WAS ONE OF THOSE NO VOTES. AND WHEN THE SENATOR CAME TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE ISSUE AND FURTHER EXPLAINED MY CONCERNS, IF I HAD TO TAKE IT BACK AGAIN I WOULD TELL YOU I WOULD HAVE VOTED YES FOR THIS TO COME OUT OF COMMITTEE BECAUSE THE TECHNICAL SIDE OF IT AND THE THINGS THAT WERE EXPLAINED AFTER THE FACT MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO ME. IT HAPPENS. IT'S PART OF THE PROCESS AND I THANK SENATOR STINNER FOR COMING TO ME AND ASKING ME TO RECONSIDER. SO I WILL SUPPORT LB241. THANK YOU. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB241]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, EVERY TIME A CEMETERY BILL COMES UP, I HAVE A COMPOSITION TITLED "MORTICIAN'S NATIONAL ANTHEM": I WAS GIVEN A COMMISSION BY A MORTICIAN TO WRITE A NATIONAL ANTHEM FOR THOSE WHO DO PLANT THEM. BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO DO IT RIGHT NOW SO I WON'T GIVE IT. BUT IF ON SELECT SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND SENATOR STINNER DECIDE THAT THEY MIGHT CAN AGREE ON SOMETHING TO PUT INTO THE BILL, THERE MIGHT BE MORE TIME AND IT WILL BE A MORE SUITABLE OCCASION FOR ME TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING. BUT I THINK I SHOULD GIVE YOU A HINT. THIS IS SUNG TO THE TUNE OF THESE ARE A FEW OF "MY FAVORITE THINGS." JUST ONE STANZA: "CORPSES, CONDOLENCES, FLOWERS, A COFFIN; BLACK CURTAINED HEARSE THAT THEY CARRY YOU OFF IN; TOMBSTONES AND EPITAPHS WITH VERBAL SLINGS; THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS." THEN WHEN YOU GET TO THE REFRAIN: "FINE EMBALMING KEEPS THE CORPSE FRESH, ADD SOME MAKEUP TOO; THEN A GOOD SERVICE LENDS JUST THE RIGHT TOUCH, AND ALL OF THIS WAITS FOR YOU." THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SEEING NO OTHER SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK OR SING, SENATOR STINNER, YOU'RE WELCOME TO CLOSE ON LB241. [LB241]

SENATOR STINNER: IF I WAS GOING TO SING, I'D HAVE TO ASK MY WIFE TO COME UP. ALL I WANT TO ADD TO THIS IS THAT THIS CUTS UNNECESSARY COSTS OF REGULATIONS DOWN. THAT'S WHAT THE BILL IS REALLY AT. AND I WOULD HOPE THAT ALL THE SENATORS WOULD SUPPORT ME. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR STINNER. YOU'VE HEARD THE DEBATE AND CLOSING ON LB241. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCE OF LB241 TO E&R INITIAL. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY.

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

HAVE YOU ALL VOTED? RECORD PLEASE, MR. CLERK. [LB241]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 40 AYES, 0 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB241]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. LB241 ADVANCES. RETURNING NOW TO GENERAL FILE. MR. CLERK. [LB241]

ASSISTANT CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT BILL, LB272, INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CRAWFORD. (READ TITLE.) THE BILL WAS READ FOR THE FIRST TIME ON JANUARY 14, REFERRED TO THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. THAT COMMITTEE PLACED THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE WITH NO COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS. [LB272]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE WELCOME TO OPEN ON... [LB272]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. ACCORDING TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, THERE ARE OVER 146,000 VETERANS LIVING IN NEBRASKA TODAY. BETWEEN 2011 AND 2016 IT IS ESTIMATED THAT OVER 1 MILLION SERVICE MEMBERS WILL LEAVE THE ARMED FORCES. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT OUR POLICIES IN NEBRASKA SUPPORT THESE MEN AND WOMEN RETURNING FROM SERVICE AND ENCOURAGE MANY OF THEM TO COME TO NEBRASKA. MANY OF THESE RETURNING SOLDIERS ARE COMING HOME TO AN ECONOMY IN WHICH POST-9/11 VETERANS EXPERIENCE HIGHER RATES OF UNEMPLOYMENT THAN THEIR VETERAN AND NONVETERAN PEERS. IN THE HEARING, WE HEARD FROM TESTIFIERS AGAIN AND AGAIN THAT EMPLOYMENT IS A KEY ISSUE FACING VETERANS, PARTICULARLY RECENT VETERANS. ONE TESTIFIER SHARED THAT WHEN VETERANS DO NOT HAVE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO INTEGRATION TEND TO GET WORSE. LAST YEAR THE LEGISLATURE PASSED LB588, THANKS TO THE WORK OF SENATOR WATERMEIER AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. LB588 PROVIDES A VETERANS HIRING PREFERENCE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYMENT. LB272, THE BILL BEFORE US TODAY, COMPLEMENTS THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE LAST YEAR AND ALLOWS THE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES TO RECRUIT VETERAN TALENT. LB272, THOUGH, IS A VOLUNTARY PREFERENCE OPTION. UNDER THE BILL, BUSINESSES CAN ELECT TO OFFER A HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSES OF 100 PERCENT DISABLED VETERANS. THIS PREFERENCE POLICY MUST BE IN WRITING AND APPLIED UNIFORMLY TO DECISIONS REGARDING HIRING AND PROMOTION. EMPLOYERS SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT A VOLUNTARY VETERANS PREFERENCE POLICY MUST NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SHALL MAINTAIN

Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

A REGISTRY OF EMPLOYERS AND VOLUNTARY VETERANS PREFERENCE EMPLOYMENT POLICY. THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION HAVE BOTH INDICATED THAT THEY CAN DO THIS WITHOUT AN ADDED FISCAL COST. IF ADOPTED, NEBRASKA WOULD JOIN AT LEAST 12 STATES, INCLUDING NEIGHBORING IOWA, WHO HAVE ESTABLISHED SIMILAR PROGRAMS. CURRENTLY, PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES WISHING TO ESTABLISH A VETERAN HIRING PREFERENCE MAY BE HESITANT TO DO SO OUT OF CONCERN ABOUT DISCRIMINATION UNDER TITLE VII OF THE FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS ACT. TITLE VII, SECTION 11 OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT, THOUGH, CONTAINS A CARVE OUT THAT EXEMPTS VETERAN PREFERENCE POLICIES IF AUTHORIZED BY STATE STATUTE, WHICH IS WHY LB272 IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO PASS. SPECIFICALLY, SECTION 11 STATES NOTHING CONTAINED IN THE SUBCHAPTER SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO REPEAL OR MODIFY ANY FEDERAL, STATE, TERRITORIAL, OR LOCAL LAW CREATING SPECIAL RIGHTS OR PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS. WITH THE PASSAGE OF LB272, PRIVATE COMPANIES ACROSS NEBRASKA MAY ESTABLISH A HIRING PREFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND VETERANS' SPOUSES THAT CLEARLY COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. I RECENTLY SPOKE WITH KEVIN HILTON FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS, AND HE DESCRIBED FOR ME A PROGRAM THEY PARTICIPATE IN CALLED HELMETS TO HARD HATS. THESE PROGRAMS RECRUIT VETERANS TO APPRENTICE IN OUR STATE AND BECOME PART OF OUR SKILLED WORK FORCE. LB272 WOULD ALLOW AN ADDED INCENTIVE FOR VETERANS TO COME TO NEBRASKA TO APPRENTICE AND THEN JOIN OUR WORK FORCE. VETERANS' SKILLS, PARTICULARLY THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS, DON'T ALWAYS TRANSLATE WELL TO A CIVILIAN RESUME, AND THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THAT MIGHT USE ALGORITHMS OR OTHER AUTOMATED PROCESSES TO SEARCH RESUMES. FOR EXAMPLE, MISSILE OPERATOR OR VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CONTROLLER MIGHT NOT GENERATE A HIT IN AN ALGORITHM THE WAY PROGRAM MANAGER MIGHT, EVEN THOUGH BOTH POSITIONS REQUIRE MANY OF THE SAME SKILLS. WHAT'S MORE, ONLY 1 OUT OF 600 CORPORATE HIRING MANAGERS COME FROM A MILITARY BACKGROUND. LB272 ALLOWS BUSINESSES TO GIVE THESE VETERANS' RESUMES A SECOND LOOK AND CONSIDER HIRING THEM IF THEY ARE EQUALLY QUALIFIED FOR THE POSITION. WE HAD NUMEROUS SUPPORTERS FROM VETERANS GROUPS, THE BUSINESS GROUPS, AND I ENCOURAGE YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LB272 TO ALLOW A VOLUNTARY HIRING PREFERENCE THAT COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAW IN OUR STATE. THANK YOU. [LB272]

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. MR. CLERK, ARE THERE ITEMS FOR THE RECORD? [LB272]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Floor Debate
February 05, 2015

ASSISTANT CLERK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. RETIREMENT SYSTEMS COMMITTEE OFFERS NOTICE OF HEARING, AS DOES THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE. AMENDMENT TO BE PRINTED TO LB70 FROM SENATOR KRIST. NAME ADD: SENATOR MELLO TO LB211. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 409-411.) [LB70 LB211]

AND I DO HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN UNTIL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 9:00 A.M.

PRESIDENT FOLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATORS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION TO ADJOURN. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. THOSE OPPOSED SAY NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED.