

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

Floor Debate
March 10, 2016

[LB447A LB447 LB698A LB698 LB704 LB710 LB722 LB745 LB768 LB830 LB857 LB874
LB881 LB897 LB919 LB919A LB934A LB934 LB935 LB1003 LB1009 LB1022 LB1032
LB1073 LB1082 LB1082A LB1094 LR415 LR455 LR475 LR476]

SPEAKER HADLEY PRESIDING

SPEAKER HADLEY: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE FORTY-FIRST DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS SENATOR LINDSTROM. PLEASE RISE.

SENATOR LINDSTROM: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR LINDSTROM. I CALL TO ORDER THE FORTY-FIRST DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, SECOND SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ROLL CALL. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU. ARE THERE ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: THE LOBBY REPORT AS REQUIRED BY LAW TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN THE JOURNAL, MR. PRESIDENT. I ALSO HAVE A SERIES OF AGENCY REPORTS THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND ARE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER REVIEW ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEB SITE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAD, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 937-938.)

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, A BILLS THIS MORNING. LB698, IT'S A BILL BY SENATOR MELLO. (READ TITLE.) [LB698A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB698A. [LB698A]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. LB698A IS A CASH-FUNDED A BILL TO COVER THE COST BOTH FOR THE, I BELIEVE, THREE OTHER HHS BILLS THAT WERE AMENDED TO LB698 WITH FUNDING GOING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FROM THEIR EXISTING CASH FUND AND FUNDING FOR THE ORIGINAL LB698 CASH FUNDS WITHIN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO COVER THEIR STAFF POSITION TO ENACT THE HOME CARE CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS. AND WITH THAT, I'D URGE THE BODY TO ADVANCE 698A. [LB698A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON LB698A. ANYONE WISHING TO SPEAK? SENATOR GLOOR. [LB698A]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND GOOD MORNING, MEMBERS. SENATOR MELLO, I WOULD ASK YOU AGAIN IF YOU WOULD ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT MORE ON WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS AMENDMENT TO LB698. I WONDER IF SENATOR MELLO WOULD YIELD? [LB698A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR MELLO, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB698A]

SENATOR MELLO: YES. [LB698A]

SENATOR GLOOR: AND SENATOR MELLO, MY REQUEST AGAIN IS, TELL ME AGAIN WHAT WE'RE ACCOMPLISHING WITH LB698A. [LB698A]

SENATOR MELLO: THE A BILL HERE IS TO TRANSFER FUNDS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HEALTH CARE...OR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CASH FUND FOR THEM TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THREE OF THE BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN ATTACHED TO LB698, THE UNDERLYING BILL, AND THERE IS A CASH FUND APPROPRIATION FROM A FUND IN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TO ALLOW THEM TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THE ORIGINAL CONTENTS OF LB698, THE HOME CARE CONSUMER BILL OF RIGHTS. [LB698A LB698]

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SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. I HAVE NO FURTHER QUESTIONS. THANK YOU. [LB698A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ANY FURTHER DEBATE? SEEING NO ONE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. SENATOR MELLO WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB698A. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED SAY NAY. HAVE EVERYONE VOTED THAT WISH TO? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB698A]

CLERK: 28 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB698A. [LB698A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE BILL ADVANCES. MR. CLERK, NEXT ITEM. [LB698A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT BILL IS LB1082A BY SENATOR SCHILZ. (READ TITLE.) [LB1082A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHILZ IS NOT HERE AT THIS TIME. IS THERE ANYONE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK FOR SENATOR SCHILZ ON THIS BILL? SEEING NONE, MR. CLERK, WE WILL SKIP OVER THIS BILL AND GO TO THE NEXT ONE. [LB1082A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SELECT FILE. I'M SORRY. YES, SELECT FILE, I HAVE NO E&RS. SENATOR SCHUMACHER WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT, WITH AM2398. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 877.) [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON AM2398. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I COULD JUST ABOUT KICK MYSELF WHERE THE SUN DON'T SHINE. (LAUGHTER) THIS THING FLEW PAST ME ON GENERAL FILE LIKE A STEALTH BOMBER WITHOUT A BLIP ON THE RADAR SCREEN. IT LOOKED LIKE JUST A LITTLE, SIMPLE ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME STATIC GIVEN TO THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE APPARENTLY THAT SLOWED DOWN THE DATA FLOW THAT REQUIRED US TO SAY, PLEASE GIVE US THE DATA, AND ADD IN THIS AMENDMENT, WE REALLY MEAN PRETTY PLEASE, WILL YOU GIVE US THE DATA?

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AND WE ADDED BECAUSE WE HAD A YEAR DELAY IN THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT PROCEDURES, EXTEND THINGS OUT A YEAR. WELL, OKAY, THAT WAS REASONABLE ENOUGH. THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN COMES THIS AMENDMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SAYING, WELL, WE'RE GOING TO EXTEND THINGS OUT TWO MORE YEARS BEYOND THAT. WHAT ARE THINGS? NOW, THIS IS TALKING ABOUT MAYBE TENS OF MILLIONS, PERHAPS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, SO MAYBE IT'S WORTH A LITTLE LISTEN. ABOUT A DECADE AGO WE GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA THAT WE COULD DO BUSINESS INCENTIVES AS A COMPETITIVE MODEL TO COMPETE WITH OTHER STATES, AND WE COULD DO THIS BY GIVING TAX CREDITS IN VARIOUS FLAVORS AND VARIOUS FORMS. SOME OF THEM WERE ITSY BITSY THINGS, LIKE ANGEL INVESTMENT AND FIRST YEAR FARMERS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. SOME OF THEM WERE A LITTLE BIGGER THINGS LIKE NEW MARKETS AND HISTORIC CREDITS. THEY WERE, YOU KNOW, FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS A POP. AND THERE WAS A REALLY, REALLY BIG ONE CALLED THE ADVANTAGE ACT, WHICH AMOUNTS TO RIGHT NOW, POTENTIALLY A BILLION DOLLARS OR IN THAT ORDER OF OBLIGATIONS BY THE STATE, BIG TIME MONEY. SOMETHING WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF THAT BILLION'S ACTUALLY GOING TO COME TO FRUITION BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH WILL ACTUALLY BE CLAIMED BECAUSE THE BUSINESSES DID WHAT THEY SAID THEY WOULD DO, BUT WE'RE TALKING BIG MONEY, AND SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION ARE IN THE CLAIMING PROCESS. WELL, FINE AND GOOD. BUT AS RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS, PAST LEGISLATURES, BEGAN TO SCRATCH THEIR HEAD AND ASKED A VERY LOGICAL AND SIMPLE QUESTION. ARE WE GETTING OUR MONEY'S WORTH? ARE THESE THINGS WORKING? ARE THEY HELPING EVERYBODY? ARE THEY HELPING FAVORITE PEOPLE AND HURTING ORDINARY PEOPLE? WHAT METRIC SHOULD WE BE MEASURING THEM BY? IF THEY CREATE A JOB, DO THEY ALSO DESTROY A JOB SO IT'S JUST AN ILLUSIONARY CREATION? HOW MUCH IS OUR REAL OBLIGATION? HOW WILL THAT AFFECT FUTURE TAX REVENUE? IS THERE A BETTER WAY TO DO IT? IS IT THE MOST COMPETITIVE WAY NOW VIS-A-VIS OTHER STATES OR HAVE OTHER STATES MOVED ON WITH OTHER MODELS? ALL THESE KIND OF QUESTIONS CAME TO MIND AND AS WE OFTEN DO, WE CONVENED A LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE, LR424, I THINK IT WAS. ALL RIGHT, AND WE SAT DOWN AND WE HEARD ALL KINDS OF TESTIMONY. THE BOTTOM LINE OF WHICH WAS, YOU KNOW, WE REALLY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE. WE THINK THEY MAY BE OKAY. WE THINK WE MIGHT GET OUR MONEY'S WORTH, BUT WE REALLY DON'T KNOW FOR SURE. AND WHAT MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT IS BURIED IN ALL OF THIS LANGUAGE AND ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THESE CREDIT THINGS IS A SUPER SECRECY CLAUSE. NOW, THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY SHALL NOT TELL THE DATA. OKAY. SO WE ARE KEPT IN THE BLANK DARK. SO WE FIGURED, LET'S DO A

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PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THESE THINGS AND LET'S SEE IF WE CAN USE THE PROTECTIONS OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT LAW THAT THEY WON'T PRINT WHAT THEY LEARN IN THE NEWSPAPER WITH THE PRIVATE DATA OF THESE COMPANIES, AND LET'S GET SOMETHING THAT WE CAN TALK ON A STRAIGHT AND HONEST BASIS AMONG OURSELVES WITH AND DESIGN THIS POLICY AND LOGICALLY DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THESE THINGS ARE WORKING, WHETHER EACH ONE'S WORKING, WHETHER THEY'RE ALL WORKING, WHETHER THEY COULD WORK BETTER. LET'S BE SMART ABOUT THINGS BECAUSE WE ARE DEALING WITH A HECK OF A LOT OF MONEY, HECK OF A LOT OF REVENUE, AND IT'S MONEY THAT IS OUTSIDE THE APPROPRIATION'S PROCESS. IT'S OUTSIDE OUR ANNUAL BUDGET REVIEW. WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW. AND SO LAST YEAR WE PASSED A BILL, SAY PERFORMANCE AUDIT, GO CHECK THIS THING OUT. AND WE PUT SUNSETS ON ALL OF THESE SO THAT WE WERE UNDER THE GUN TO REALLY LOOK AT THEM RATHER THAN RUM-DUM EXTEND THE SUNSET. OKAY? AND IT CAME TO PASS. AND PERFORMANCE AUDIT WENT AND STARTED ITS JOB. AND THERE WAS THE TYPICAL FOG THAT COMES OUT OF THE SYSTEM IN WHICH YOU CAN'T SEE THE DATA, YOU CAN'T KNOW THE DATA, YOU GOT TO REALLY SPELL IT OUT WHAT TO GIVE US, AND THINGS SLOWED DOWN. AND NOW THE STATUS OF THINGS ARE, WE'RE NOT JUST LOOKING AT EXTENDING IT ONE YEAR BECAUSE OF THE DELAY CAUSED, WE'RE ACTUALLY REVERSING IN THIS BILL, AS ITS BEEN AMENDED, OUR PRIOR DECISION TO BRING THIS THING TO A HEAD, TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THESE CREDITS BECAUSE NOW WE'RE BURIED IN HERE, FLYING ON THIS STEALTH BOMBER IS ANOTHER TWO-YEAR EXTENSION BEYOND THAT. MOST OF US WHO ARE ON THE LR424 COMMITTEE THAT GOT INTO THESE ISSUES AND SAID THIS WAS SERIOUS, MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO VOTED FOR THE BILL LAST YEAR, BY THE TIME THIS THING IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE NOW, WILL EITHER BE OUT OF HERE OR WAITING FOR THE DOOR TO HIT THEM ON THE BEHIND. AND WE START THE WHOLE PROCESS AGAIN. NOW, NORMALLY, THE BUSINESS FOLKS CAN BE EXPECTED TO DO WHAT THEY'RE EXPECTED TO DO, SAY, OH, NO, THIS IS A GREAT THING FOR SELECTED BUSINESSES, SO GET AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. BUT IT'S OUR OBLIGATION TO SAY, WAIT A MINUTE, IS THIS WORKING AS WE DECIDED TO DO LAST YEAR, AND AS THE LR424 COMMITTEE DECIDED TO DO. WE DESERVE STRAIGHT ANSWERS WHEN WE'RE DEALING WITH HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS, PERHAPS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS. AND SO THIS MORNING WE'RE ARGUING AND WE'RE LOOKING AT AM2398, WHICH SAYS, ALL RIGHT, WE GOT THESE LITTLE ONES THAT ARE OUT THERE, THE FIVE, TEN, FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLAR CREDIT THINGS, THOSE ARE SMALL FRIES. LET'S NOT MESS WITH ARGUING ABOUT THEM, BUT WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE ACT, THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS...BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OUTSTANDING ACT, TOO, THAT WE AND THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT DECIDED

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SHOULD BE EXAMINED PRONTO BECAUSE THERE'S SO MUCH MONEY INVOLVED, AND IF WE NEEDED TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS WE'D BETTER GET OFF THE STICK AND DO IT BECAUSE THIS WAS EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT. SO THE AMENDMENT THAT I PASSED, SAID, WAIT A MINUTE, WE'LL DO ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE ADVANTAGE ACT TO GIVE THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE SOME HEADROOM, BUT WE SURE AREN'T DOING ANOTHER TWO YEARS BEYOND THAT. IF WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHERE WE'RE AT, THEN IT'S WAY TOO COMPLICATED FOR US TO HAVE PASSED. NOW, THERE'S AN ARGUMENT, OH, WELL, IF THERE'S UNCERTAINTY IN THE FUTURE, THEN THE ACT WILL NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE. WE'VE GOT TO GIVE CERTAINTY. YOU KNOW, THAT ARGUMENT WASN'T THERE LAST YEAR WHEN WE SET THE DATES. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THE ARGUMENT WASN'T THERE BEFORE THE LR424 COMMITTEE. IT'S JUST A RECENT THING TO FACILITATE AND FUEL THIS PARTICULAR RUN AT THE SYSTEM. I'M ASKING FOR A HARDY DEBATE TODAY ON THE CREDITS, ON THIS ISSUE, AND THE PROPOSAL BEFORE YOU IS WE STAND WITH THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE BILL, WHICH EXTENDED IT ONE YEAR IN RESPONSE TO DRAG FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCIES AND WHICH ENFORCED THE WILL AND INTENT OF THIS BODY IN LR424 AND THE SUBSEQUENT LEGISLATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO A HEARTY DEBATE AND IT MIGHT EVEN BE A LONG DEBATE. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, FOR YOUR OPENING ON AM2398. (DOCTOR OF THE DAY INTRODUCED.) SECONDLY, THE ORANGES BEING DISTRIBUTED ARE A CELEBRATION OF SENATOR HAAR'S BIRTHDAY TODAY. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SENATOR HAAR. AS JUST AN ASIDE, SENATOR KINTNER SAYS ANYBODY CAN HAVE HIS ORANGE THAT WANTS IT. SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN. [LB1022]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'M GOING TO RISE IN OPPOSITION TO AM2398 AND NOT SO MUCH AGAINST WHAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER HAD SAID BECAUSE THE HISTORY THAT HE LAID OUT WAS ACCURATE. HE HAD ADDRESSED LR424, WAS ACTUALLY LR444, IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED WITH AND WE HAD A COUPLE HEARINGS ACROSS THE STATE AND MUCH DEBATE ABOUT THIS ISSUE ABOUT TAX INCENTIVES. HE HAD ACCURATELY DESCRIBED EVERYTHING THAT WENT ACROSS THERE AND I

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HAD HANDED OUT A LITTLE HANDOUT THAT KIND OF GETS EVERYBODY WHERE WE'RE AT ON THIS THING. LAST YEAR, LB598 SET UP THE INCENTIVE PROGRAM THAT WE WERE GOING TO EVALUATE IT. THIS YEAR, WE ARE HERE TODAY BECAUSE THE UNDERLYING BILL ON LB1022 IS TO GIVE US ACCESS TO THE DATA. ALONG WITH THAT WE'RE ALSO CHANGING WHAT THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE WILL DO. WE WILL RECEIVE A REPORT BACK FROM THE AUDITORS. WE WILL LOOK AT IT, BUT WE FELT OUR ROLE IN THIS WHOLE PROCESS WAS TO THEN TURN THIS OVER TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE BECAUSE WE REALLY FELT LIKE THE SUNSET DEBATE AND THE DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER TO HAVE INCENTIVES OUGHT TO BELONG IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. SO, I WILL REMIND EVERYBODY THAT REALLY THE BILL'S INTENT ON THE SUNSET DATES TODAY ARE MECHANICAL. BUT, OBVIOUSLY, SENATOR SCHUMACHER BRINGS UP A GOOD POINT IN THE FACT THAT WE OUGHT TO BE LOOKING AT THESE SUNSET DATES VERY SERIOUSLY. SO MY SHEET TALKS ABOUT EXISTING LAW OF WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR, WE EXTENDED DEBATE TO THE END OF 2017, AND THEN MY GREEN COPY FROM THE AMENDMENT THAT WE CAME OUT OF...AND I HAD THIS INCORRECTLY MARKED HERE, GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. IT ACTUALLY CAME OUT OF EXEC BOARD. THE GREEN COPY EXTENDED IT ONE MORE YEAR. IN DISCUSSIONS AFTER WE HAD GOTTEN TO THAT POINT, WE DID GET SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT WHAT THE COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF NEBRASKA LOOKS AT WHEN THEY LOOK AT TAX INCENTIVES. AND I FELT IT WAS A FAIR ARGUMENT TO EXTEND THE DEBATE FOR THREE YEARS BECAUSE THEY ARE OUT THERE ACTIVELY RECRUITING BUSINESSES, AND WHEN THIS PROCESS TAKES A YEAR, MAYBE TWO YEARS TO DEVELOP, I UNDERSTAND THEIR ISSUE ABOUT HAVING A LITTLE LONGER SUNSET. SO I DID AGREE TO ALLOWING AN AMENDMENT COMING OUT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT WOULD EXTEND IT FROM ONE YEAR TO THREE YEARS. SO THAT'S WHY I STILL STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AM2398, BUT I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S CONCERN. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS BEING DEBATED, BEING ISSUED IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND IT PROBABLY CREATING A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LIABILITY. SO I'M FULLY IN SUPPORT OF THE IDEA OF WHAT WE'RE DOING. I THINK THE AUDIT COMMITTEE IS GOING TO GET IT TO. IT'S GOING TO TAKE US A LITTLE MORE TIME AND I THINK WE REALLY HAVE THE MECHANISM IN PLACE TO DO A GOOD JOB ON THIS. BUT THE DEBATE WE'RE HAVING TODAY IS JUST STRICTLY ABOUT THE SUNSET DATES. BUT I WILL JUST GIVE YOU MY OPINION AS CHAIRMAN OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT STAND THE WAY WE HAD PASSED IT ON GENERAL FILE, BUT I'M IN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF HAVING A GOOD CONVERSATION ABOUT THIS ISSUE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. SENATOR KRIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, I AM YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE PILL THIS MORNING. CALM YOURSELF. LET'S GO BACK TO THE GREEN COPY. IT'S ESSENTIALLY WHAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER IS SAYING AND I WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORT THAT. I JUST WANT TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND. WHEN THIS BILL CAME TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, IT WAS REFERENCED TO THE EXEC BECAUSE IT HAD IMPACT ON OUR LEGISLATIVE PROCESS ACROSS THE BOARD TO ANOTHER AGENCY. IT WAS DISCUSSED IN EXEC THAT IN NO WAY ARE WE EXPERTS IN REVENUE AND ULTIMATELY THE PRODUCT, AS SENATOR WATERMEIER SAID, WOULD HAVE TO GO TO THE EXPERTS IN REVENUE COMMITTEE TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION. SENATOR GLOOR CAME TO APPEAL THAT DECISION IN TERMS OF REFERENCING AND WE ONCE AGAIN STAYED WITH OUR ORIGINAL REFERENCING PROCESS. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, THIS SUBJECT MATTER ONCE PERFORMANCE AUDIT IS DONE WITH IT, NEEDS TO GO TO THAT COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. NOW FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE SUNSET PROCESS, I WANT TO SPEND JUST A FEW SECONDS TALKING TO YOU ABOUT IT. THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED HAD WE NOT PUT A SUNSET ON IT. THE BODY VOTED TO PUT THESE THINGS INTO EXISTENCE AS WE HAVE HISTORICALLY ON MANY OCCASIONS, BUT WE WEREN'T SO SURE OF THE OUTCOME, SO WE PUT A SUNSET ON IT. ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR YEARS, MEANING THAT WE HAD TO REVISIT IT AS IT COMES BACK. NOW A SUNSET DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT AUTOMATICALLY HAPPENS. IT CAN BE TAKEN UP ON...ACTUALLY IT MEANS IT AUTOMATICALLY WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THAT SUNSET DATE, BUT YOU CAN COME BACK ON THIS FLOOR AT ANYTIME AND SEE A SUNSET PROVISION AND SAY, IT'S GONE AND 25 VOTES WILL TAKE IT OFF. SO, EVEN THOUGH YOU WOULD SUNSET THINGS FOR ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, YOU COULD COME BACK NEXT YEAR AND SAY, BOY, THAT PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT WAS INDICATIVE OF A PROGRAM THAT IS NOT WORKING AND THEREFORE WE NEED TO GET RID OF IT. THE REASON THAT THE THREE WAS ADDED, OR THREE-YEAR AMENDMENT, IS THAT LOBBY AND CONSTITUENTS CAME TO US AND SAID, IN ORDER TO HAVE PEOPLE APPLY FOR THIS PROGRAM, WHICH IS NOT JUST AN AUTOMATIC GO FILL OUT THE APPLICATION AND GET YOUR LOAN, OKAY, THIS IS AN INVOLVED PROCESS THAT TAKES SEVERAL YEARS TO REALLY GET INTO THE BENEFIT ASPECTS. WE AGREED TO PUT THE AMENDMENT ON, AND WE VOTED IT OUT OF COMMITTEE WITH KNOWING THAT IT WOULD BE A SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION ON THE FLOOR.

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AND I APPRECIATE SENATOR HARR AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER COMING TO ME WHEN IT WAS BROUGHT UP THE LAST TIME AND SAYING, THIS IS TOO LONG. AND I TOLD THEM AT THAT POINT AND I'LL SAY IT AGAIN, MY CONCERN IS WE HAVE A GREAT DEAL INVESTED IN THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT PROCESS, AND IF THAT TAKES LONGER THAN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO BECAUSE OF OUR HANG-UPS, BECAUSE OF OUR SETBACKS, WE NEED TO LOOK AT THE PROCESS BEFORE WE DO AWAY WITH THE ACTUAL PROGRAMS FOR A GOOD REASON. NOW, I HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY AND SENATOR WATERMEIER, I THINK, ALLUDED TO IT, WE'LL GET THIS DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER. AND ONE YEAR, AS WHAT IS CURRENTLY IN THE GREEN COPY, WHICH IS REFLECTED IN THE AM2398 AND BEFORE I SAY THAT, LET ME JUST...WILL SENATOR SCHUMACHER YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: YES. [LB1022]

SENATOR KRIST: I AM CORRECT. YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE GREEN COPY WHICH IS JUST THE ONE YEAR. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: RIGHT. THAT WAS THE ORIGINAL RECOMMENDATION OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT. [LB1022]

SENATOR KRIST: OKAY. NO MORE WORDS. VOTE GREEN ON AM2398 AND THEN LET'S GET LB1022 ON THE ROAD AND MOVE FORWARD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I'M WONDERING IF SENATOR WATERMEIER WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION, PLEASE. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR WATERMEIER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB1022]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: YES. [LB1022]

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SENATOR BRASCH: I WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR YOUR FULL OPENING. A MEMBER OF THE SECOND HOUSE HAD CALLED ME OFF THE FLOOR, AND AS I'M LOOKING AT YOUR COMMITTEE STATEMENT, I SEE THAT THE OPPONENT IS COMMISSIONER TONY FULTON FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE. CAN YOU TELL US THE REASON REVENUE IS OPPOSING THIS, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO. [LB1022]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: YEAH, LET ME JUST ELABORATE A LITTLE BIT, SENATOR BRASCH. WHAT YOU'RE READING IS FROM GENERAL FILE. WE PASSED AN AMENDMENT ON GENERAL FILE THAT TOOK CARE OF ALL THE CONCERNS THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE HAD. WE ARE NOW GRANTED FULL ACCESS AND WE CLARIFIED A LOT OF THINGS IN THERE. SO THAT WILL ALLEVIATE YOUR FIRST QUESTION. WE TOOK CARE OF THAT ON GENERAL FILE. SO HE IS A NEUTRAL ON THE BILL. HE TESTIFIED BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE BILL WAS PRESENTED, BUT WE HAD A HANDSHAKE AGREEMENT ABOUT AN AMENDMENT THAT I OFFERED AFTERWARDS AND HE SAID IF THAT WOULD PASS, THEY WOULD BE NEUTRAL ON THE BILL. SO THE DEPARTMENT IS NEUTRAL. [LB1022]

SENATOR BRASCH: THE DEPARTMENT IS NEUTRAL. AND THEN THE INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT CAME IN NEUTRAL, THE OMAHA CHAMBER, NEBRASKA CHAMBER, LINCOLN CHAMBER, NEBRASKA BANKERS, ARE THEY ALSO NEUTRAL OR HAVE THEY CHANGED THEIR POSITION WITH YOUR AMENDMENT? [LB1022]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: YOU KNOW, THE UNDERLYING DISCUSSION WE HAD WITH THEM ABOUT BEING NEUTRAL WAS THEY UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR THE AUDIT. THEY HAD ACTUALLY SUPPORTED ME THE YEAR BEFORE. THEIR IDEA BEHIND NOT SUPPORTING THE BILL COMPLETELY WAS BECAUSE OF THE SUNSET DATE. I THINK IF YOU WOULD HAVE ASKED THEM FOR THE LONGER SUNSET THEY WOULD HAVE ACTUALLY COME IN AND TESTIFIED AS A PROPONENT TO THE BILL. SO THAT'S WHY THEY WAS IN NEUTRAL POSITION. [LB1022]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. AND I HAVE ONE FINAL COMMENT HERE. AS I WENT OUT TO VISIT WITH THE INDIVIDUAL THAT I DO NOT KNOW, BUT I KNOW NOW FROM THE SECOND HOUSE, HE ASKED ME A QUESTION. HE SAID, WHY ARE WE THE SECOND HOUSE, SHOULDN'T WE BE THE FIRST HOUSE? SO THAT'S A THOUGHT FOR TODAY. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES, AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. SO THIS IS AN INTERESTING SITUATION WE HAVE HERE, BECAUSE I DON'T THINK SENATOR SCHUMACHER IS ATTACKING NEBRASKA INCENTIVE ACTS BECAUSE I THINK WE'VE SHOWN THAT THEY DO WORK, AND THEY'RE CONTINUING TO WORK. THE QUESTION IS, HOW DO WE EVALUATE THESE AND WHEN SHOULD WE EVALUATE THEM AND HOW SHOULD WE EVALUATE? WE ARE IN A UNIQUE SITUATION RIGHT NOW, AND I'M PREACHING TO THE CHOIR IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS YOU CAN TURN ME OFF, BUT WE'RE IN A SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE ALMOST NO UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH IS WONDERFUL. WHERE A FULL EMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IS, WE DON'T HAVE ANYONE MOVING TO THE STATE. PROBLEM IS, WE DON'T HAVE ANY NEW JOBS BEING CREATED OR NOT AT THE LEVEL. AND SO WHILE THIS HELPS CREATE JOBS, THE QUESTION IS, IS IT DOING IT PROPERLY? DO WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING MORE? DO WE NEED TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY? I ALWAYS ARGUE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TRAVEL AT THE SPEED OF BUSINESS, AND THAT'S A PROBLEM, AND THAT SOMETIMES LEADS TO A DISCONNECT BETWEEN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT. NOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING TO DO IS TO SLOW DOWN THE PROCESS EVEN MORE AND TO PUT THREE YEARS OUT THERE. MAKE NO MISTAKE, LB1022 TO ADD THREE YEARS IS A CHANGE FROM THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCE. IF YOUR ARGUMENT IS FOR CERTAINTY, YOU WANT TO REMAIN THE WAY IT IS TODAY. SPEAKER HADLEY, WHEN HE WAS CHAIRMAN OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, ALREADY EXTENDED THE SUNSETS ONCE ON THE NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE ACT. HE DID THAT WHEN HE WAS...BECAUSE WE WANTED TO GIVE THE NEW GOVERNOR, WHOMEVER THAT MAY BE AT THAT TIME, WE DIDN'T KNOW, A CHANCE TO CREATE THEIR OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOL. WE'RE GOING TO DO THAT THIS SUMMER. WE'RE GOING TO WORK...I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN WITH THE CHAMBERS. I KNOW THAT ALL THE BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN UPDATING OR CHANGING NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE, NOT BECAUSE IT'S NOT WORKING, BUT BECAUSE IT CAN DO BETTER, AND THAT'S WHAT WE'RE ABOUT. WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT. WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT...BECAUSE THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS TODAY IS DIFFERENT THAN WHEN NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE WAS FIRST WRITTEN AND SO WE HAVE TO UPDATE OUR STATUTES TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE TIMELY AND WORK. SO I THINK MAYBE WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE IS A DISTINCTION WITHOUT A DIFFERENCE BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO COME NEXT YEAR WITH SOMETHING. SO, YOU KNOW, SUPPORT SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT OR NOT, THERE IS GOING TO BE A BILL NEXT YEAR. I'M GOING TO WORK ON IT AND I'VE ALREADY SPOKEN WITH OTHER

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SENATORS ON THE FLOOR PRIOR TO TODAY ABOUT HOW WE CAN UPDATE NEBRASKA TO THE WAY WE DO BUSINESS TODAY. SO WITH THAT, I THINK WE JUST NEED TO TAKE A VOTE UP OR DOWN KNOWING THAT IT REALLY IS INCONSEQUENTIAL. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR GLOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AS CHAIR OF REVENUE COMMITTEE, I WANT TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS. I APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT, BUT I ALSO WANT TO EXPLAIN A LITTLE BIT THE FACT THAT WE DID GO TO REFERENCING AND ARGUE THAT LB1022 NEEDED TO COME TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. I MADE THAT ARGUMENT IN PART BECAUSE OF MY CONCERN THAT PERHAPS IT WAS FELT THAT THE EXEC COMMITTEE WAS AN EASIER PATH FOR THIS BILL THAN GOING TO REVENUE. I ALSO DID SO BECAUSE FRANKLY AS A STANDING COMMITTEE, WE BELIEVE WHEN IT COMES TO CERTAIN BILLS THAT SPEAK TO CERTAIN COMPONENTS OF THE LAW, WE HAVE THE STAFF WHO ARE TRAINED TO LOOK AT THESE BILLS. WE HAVE THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE DEPARTMENTS WHO HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF DRAFTING THE RULES AND REGS, AND WE HAVE THE COMMITTEE THAT'S USED TO LISTENING TO THESE SORTS OF BILLS. SO MY ASK FOR REREFERENCING TO REVENUE, I THINK WAS APPROPRIATE AND IT WAS THE SORT OF THING THAT YOU WOULD EXPECT THE CHAIR OF A COMMITTEE TO DO. THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN, AND THE REASON WAS, AND SENATOR KRIST TRIED TO EXPLAIN THAT LB1022 IS SEEN AS OVERSIGHT, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IS OVERSIGHT, AND THAT WAS THE RATIONALE GIVEN. I ACCEPT THAT RESPONSIBILITY AND DON'T ARGUE THAT THE EXEC COMMITTEE HAS A DEGREE OF OVERSIGHT ON HERE. I JUST WANTED TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE ISSUE WAS HERE THAT HAD ME PROTESTING AND ASKING FOR REREFERENCING OF LB1022 BACK. SENATOR HARR STOLE MY THUNDER ON A LOT OF THE ISSUES AROUND LB1022. SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S BILL IS ONE THAT'S WORTHY OF SOME DISCUSSION. IT'S THE SORT OF DISCUSSION WE MIGHT HAVE HAD IN REVENUE COMMITTEE, WOULD BE MY POINT. AND SO IF WE'RE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION NOW, IT'S THE SAME SORT OF DISCUSSION THAT WOULD HAVE COME OUT IN REVENUE COMMITTEE, AND ONE OF THE REASONS THAT I WAS ARGUING THAT IT SHOULD COME BACK TO REVENUE COMMITTEE. AND WE'LL LEAVE IT AT THAT. THANK YOU, MEMBERS. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GLOOR. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

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SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, SENATOR HADLEY, PRESIDENT. FIRST TIME I SEEN THIS, I SAID, WELL, YEAH, THEY'RE DOING AN AUDIT. AND I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL THE REFERENCING, I'M GETTING BETTER AT IT BUT AS SOON AS I SEEN INCENTIVE ACTS EXTENDING SUNSETS, I GO, REVENUE, IT POPPED INTO MY HEAD, REVENUE. I CAN UNDERSTAND THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REFERENCE IN THIS TO PERFORMANCE AUDIT, BUT THE MINUTE AN AMENDMENT CAME UP TO CHANGE PROVISIONS IN AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE LAW, I DON'T SEE HOW THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CAN START PUTTING AMENDMENTS ON BILLS BEFORE THEY...MAYBE I'M WRONG ABOUT THE RULES, BUT BEFORE THEY GO TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO. BUT TO ME I SEE THERE'S AN AMENDMENT HERE THAT WAS THE EXTENSION OF THE SUNSET WAS PUT ON BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. NOT...I DON'T KNOW THE RULES. I MIGHT BE WAY OFF BASE HERE, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT. THE MINUTE ANYBODY BROUGHT UP AN AMENDMENT TO THIS THING IT SHOULD HAVE WENT TO REVENUE. YOU KNOW, I'M A PRO-TERM LIMIT INDIVIDUAL, BIG TIME PRO. I SEE THE CHANGE JUST BETWEEN THE ROOKIES AND THE FOLKS WHO HAVE BEEN HERE SEVEN YEARS IN HOW WE ADDRESS THINGS AND HOW WE PROTECT INSTITUTIONS INSTEAD OF THE TAXPAYER AND THE INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENT. NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT. I CAN SEE HOW WE CAN GET CAUGHT UP INTO THAT. BUT THERE'S A REASON FOR SUNSETS AND THEY WORK WELL WITH TERM LIMITS BECAUSE THE NEW BODY COMES IN EVERY EIGHT YEARS OR SO, COMPLETELY NEW. WE SHOULD LOOK AT THOSE TAX INCENTIVES AND PROGRAMS SUCH AS THAT, THAT DO CHANGE WITH TIME AND THE NEEDS DO CHANGE OVER TIME AS SENATOR HARR SAID. BUT I JUST DON'T SEE HOW TWO UNRELATED COMMITTEES TO REVENUE CAN AMEND AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE PROGRAM. I'M NOT ACCUSING ANYBODY OF ANYTHING BECAUSE THERE'S NO CONSPIRACIES HERE. I LIKE THAT WORD. IT GETS USED. THEY WERE JUST THINKING THAT THEY...THEY WERE THINKING ONE-SIDED SAYING, WE CAN'T GET THIS PERFORMANCE AUDIT DONE IN TIME, SO LET'S DO THIS. WELL, THAT WAS A HUGE JUMP. HUGE JUMP TO EXTEND THAT. THOSE OF US WHO PAY TAXES, AND WE HEAR ABOUT THESE INCENTIVES, WE'RE PAYING OURS. OUR BUSINESSES ARE PAYING THEM. WE'RE LOOKING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY. WELL, WE'RE WILLING TO BEND A LITTLE AND SAY, WELL, IF THIS BUSINESS...EVEN THOUGH WE'RE LOYAL TO THE STATE WE'VE BEEN HERE, SOMEBODY WANTS TO COME HERE, AH, WE'LL HELP THEM COME WITH INCENTIVES, BUT WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THAT COST IS. WE NEED TO KNOW WHY WE'RE PAYING HIGHER TAXES TO COVER THE PUBLIC SAFETY, THE ROADS, THE SCHOOLS, COSTS, BECAUSE THEY'RE NOT, BECAUSE THEY'RE KEEPING THEIR TAX DOLLARS. THERE'S A GIVE AND TAKE HERE, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE A LOT OF OVERSIGHT. THERE WAS A REASON A SUNSET WAS PUT IN THERE. IT

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NEEDS TO STAY THERE AND IF IT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED, IT NEEDS TO BE DONE THROUGH THE PROCESS OF A PUBLIC HEARING WHERE PEOPLE ARE USED TO COMING TO THAT COMMITTEE AND TESTIFYING ON REVENUE-RELATED INITIATIVES, WHICH ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES ARE EXCEPT TIF. THAT ONE OUGHT TO GO TO REVENUE THE WAY IT HAS BEEN USED. BUT ANYWAY, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, BUT I STAND IN AGREEMENT WITH SENATOR SCHUMACHER. I'M ALL FOR A PERFORMANCE AUDIT, BUT IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE PROVISIONS OF THE EXISTING LAW THAT OUGHT TO GO THROUGH THE RIGHT CHANNELS. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I THINK WE'RE BEGINNING TO HAVE A GOOD DISCUSSION, AND I'M HOPEFUL THAT WE DO NOT RUN INTO CONFLICTS WITH THE REVENUE COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING THAT I THINK IS SCHEDULED FOR MAYBE 10:00 THAT WOULD CUT THIS DEBATE SHORT, EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE THERE ARE SOME IN THE LOBBY WHO ARE JUST PRAYING FOR THAT. I AGREE WITH WHAT SENATOR HARR SAID WITH ONE EXCEPTION. THIS IS NOT INCONSEQUENTIAL. CLEARLY UNDER THE EXISTING ACT THERE ARE SOME HIGHLY, FLATLY JUST POWERFUL PEOPLE, WHO ARE WELL-REPRESENTED IN THE LOBBY WHO HAVE IT REALLY, REALLY GOOD BECAUSE THE ACT FOR THOSE PEOPLE UNDOUBTEDLY IS ACTING REALLY, REALLY WELL. BUT THE RECOMMENDATION THAT COMES BACK FROM PERFORMANCE AUDIT MAY SUGGEST SOME DIFFERENT DIVISION OF THE PICNIC BASKET. AND IF WE PASS IT WITH THE AMENDMENT I PROPOSE, THERE WILL BE A DEADLINE AND SOME HEAT ON US TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE PROGRAM CONSISTENT WITH THAT OF PERFORMANCE AUDIT. IF IT'S ANOTHER TWO YEARS OUT, THERE'LL BE NO HEAT. YES, I AGREE, WE CAN BRING AN AMENDMENT TO CHANGE IT, TO STRIKE IT, AND IT REALLY DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE EXCEPT FOR, GUESS WHAT? THE VERY POWERFUL INTERESTS WHO WOULD LIKE TO KEEP THE PICNIC GOING THEIR WAY, AND WOULD MAYBE BE CHANGED BY IT, JUST HAVE GOT TO GET 17 VOTES. AND IF THEY DO, WE'RE DEAD IN THE WATER FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. AND TIMES WILL HAVE CHANGED AGAIN. AND WE WILL HAVE TO START THE PROCESS OVER AGAIN, AND THE STATUS QUO REMAINS, AND WE ARE HOBBLING. THIS FUSE OF 2018, WHICH IS THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE'S OWN LANGUAGE EXTENDING IT A YEAR BECAUSE THEY WERE KIND OF RUNNING CIRCLES, IS ADEQUATE TO MEET THE LEGITIMATE NEEDS. IT IS A GOOD THING BECAUSE IT FORCES THIS LEGISLATURE, WHILE SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED

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IN THIS PROCESS FROM THE GIT-GO ARE STILL HERE TO HAVE A DISCUSSION TO CORRECT IT UNDER THE GUN OF WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING RATHER THAN SPACE IT OFF AND START ALL OVER AGAIN AND REMAIN WITH MAYBE WHAT IS AN INEFFECTIVE STATUS QUO. THERE IS A BIG DIFFERENCE. IT IS PROCEDURAL. IT IS CALLED WHO'S GOT TO COME UP WITH 17 VOTES? OR 33 VOTES, IF YOU LOOK AT IT THE OTHER WAY, IN ORDER TO DO CLOTURE. THIS IS A BIG DEAL. IF FOR SOME REASON THERE'S SOMEBODY COMING DOWN THE PIPELINE A YEAR FROM NOW THAT WE REALLY WANT TO COURT, WE CAN GO THE OTHER DIRECTION AND EXTEND IT THEN. BUT IT WILL BE OUR OPTION RATHER THAN THE LOBBY'S OPTION, AND THAT'S A VERY IMPORTANT DISTINCTION IN PROCEDURE. DO WE WANT TO DO WHAT WE SAID WE WANTED TO DO A YEAR AGO, OR ARE WE GOING TO, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, KIND OF BACK OFF? KIND OF GET ALONG. WORRIED ABOUT WELL, WHETHER WE CAN GET OUR OWN TWO OR THREE MILLION DOLLAR BILL THROUGH HERE OR THERE... [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ...AND GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT RUFFLING TOO MANY FEATHERS. THIS IS BIG STUFF. THIS IS A STRATEGIC DECISION WHETHER WE WANT TO BRING THESE ISSUES UNDER LIGHT TO A HEAD, ADAPT THEM ACCORDING TO WHAT IS DESIRABLE BY THE...FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA WITHOUT BEING HELD TO A FILIBUSTER SITUATION WHERE WE HAVE TO GET A SUPERMAJORITY TO OVERCOME THE RICH AND POWERFUL. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATORS MELLO, WATERMEIER, McCOLLISTER, DAVIS, AND OTHERS. SENATOR MELLO, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. I HAVE TO RESPECTFULLY RISE IN OPPOSITION TO SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT IN PART BECAUSE TO GIVE, I THINK, MAYBE A FULL PICTURE OF WHY WE HAVE THE AMENDED VERSION OF LB1022 AS IT STANDS. AS ONE OF THE PROBABLY STRONGEST PROPONENTS OF LB538 LAST YEAR, AND AS A MEMBER OF THE ORIGINAL LR444 TAX INCENTIVE EFFECT IN THIS COMMITTEE, I'M WHOLEHEARTEDLY IN SUPPORT OF WHAT WE DID LAST YEAR IN LIGHT OF TRYING TO MOVE TOWARDS EVIDENCE-BASED POLICIES WHEN IT COMES TO TAX INCENTIVE REVIEWS. THE ITEM WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US IS A LITTLE BIT MORE COMPLICATED, AND I WANT TO SPLIT IT UP IN

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TWOFOLD. ONE, I HAVE NO DISAGREEMENTS WITH MY GOOD FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, SENATOR GLOOR, IN REGARDS TO...LB1022 ESSENTIALLY WAS A DIFFICULT BILL TO GET REFERENCED BECAUSE HALF OF THE BILL PURELY FALLS IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION, THE OTHER HALF OF THE BILL PURELY FALLS IN THE EXECUTIVE BOARD'S DISCRETION. AND I THINK TO SOME EXTENT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHILE I'M A NONVOTING MEMBER, I UNDERSTOOD AND UNDERSTAND WHY THEY CHOSE TO KEEP LB1022 IN EXECUTIVE BOARD BECAUSE IT DEALT WITH THE LEGISLATURE'S POWERS TO BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE SENSITIVE TAX INFORMATION TO COMPLETE THESE PERFORMANCE AUDITS ON TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. I DO NOT DISAGREE, THOUGH, ANY AND ALL EXISTING TAX CREDIT OR TAX INCENTIVE SUNSET DATES ALWAYS GO THROUGH THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, NEED TO ALWAYS GO THROUGH THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, THIS WAS ONE OF THOSE INSTANCES WHERE IT WAS A TOUGH CALL FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MAKE, AND I KNOW IT DID NOT MAKE EVERYONE HAPPY. BUT WHAT WE DID ON GENERAL FILE WITH LB1022 WITH AN AMENDMENT WAS TAKE THE ORIGINAL GREEN COPY OF THE BILL WHICH WAS EXTENDING IT ONE YEAR AND GIVING IT AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS ON TOP OF THAT. AND THE REASON AND RATIONALE BECAUSE OF THAT IS TO SOME EXTENT THE OPPONENTS OF THAT SUNSET INITIAL CHANGE INITIALLY WANTED TO GET RID OF ALL SUNSETS. THAT WAS THE DISCUSSION AND THAT WAS THE DIALOGUE. THAT WAS THE DEBATE AND THE NEGOTIATION. IT WAS NOT SIMPLY, EXTEND IT ONE YEAR AND WE'RE DONE. NO, THERE WAS A STRONG ARGUMENT AND A STRONG DEBATE BEING HAD TO ELIMINATE ALL SUNSETS IF THEY'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH A PERFORMANCE AUDIT PROCESS. I APPRECIATE SENATOR WATERMEIER'S LEADERSHIP OF TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE FOCUSED IN REGARD TO THE REASON THERE WAS A SUNSET EXTENSION IN THE FIRST PLACE WAS A TO PROVIDE AND EASE PRESSURE ON THIS BODY NEXT BIENNIUM. BECAUSE IF WE HAD A SUNSET AND THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT WASN'T QUITE DONE, OR DIDN'T GET DONE IN TIME TO MEET, I WOULD SAY, THE HIGH BAR THAT THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE IS GOING TO SET BEFORE THIS AUDIT GETS RELEASED, YOU WOULD TURN THE LEGISLATURE INTO A PRESSURE COOKER TO HAVE TO PASS SOME VERSION OF A TAX INCENTIVE BILL NEXT YEAR. THAT WAS THE CONCERN AS IT WAS GOING TO PUT THIS BODY IN A POSITION OF ABSOLUTELY HAVING TO PASS SOMETHING BECAUSE THE OTHER SUNSET DATE WAS GOING TO MAKE NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE GO AWAY. SO THERE WAS AN ARGUMENT, WHY DON'T WE JUST GET RID OF ALL SUNSETS ALTOGETHER IF THEY'RE GOING TO GO THROUGH THIS PROCESS? SENATOR WATERMEIER, SENATOR KRIST, MYSELF, ALONG WITH SPEAKER HADLEY, HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT STAFF, HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THOSE IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

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HAD CONCERNS ABOUT THIS, AND THE AGREEMENT THAT CAME OUT OF THAT DISCUSSION IN A DEBATE WAS CREATING AN ADDITIONAL TWO-YEAR SUNSET. SO IF THE LEGISLATURE NEXT BIENNIUM GETS A PERFORMANCE AUDIT, LET'S SAY NEXT APRIL, THE LEGISLATURE HAS ENOUGH TIME TO DIGEST THAT, TO REVIEW IT. THE REVENUE COMMITTEE CAN DO INTERIM STUDIES ON IT. THEY CAN MOVE FORWARD IN REGARDS TO WHAT THEY BELIEVE SHOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION. I DON'T THINK ANYONE IN THIS DISCUSSION HAS SAID GOOD OR BAD... [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR MELLO: ...WHAT WE'RE MAKING, I THINK, A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ON SOME OF THESE TAX CREDITS AND INCENTIVE PROGRAMS. THE INITIAL CONCEPT WAS TO PUT THEM THROUGH A PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR US TO DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS AND TO SEE IF THERE ARE CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE AND GIVE THE REVENUE COMMITTEE MORE INFORMATION TO MAKE THE DETERMINATION ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATURE FIRST OF WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO CONTINUE THESE PROGRAMS, SCRAP THEM, OR CREATE NEW ONES. SENATOR WATERMEIER'S AMENDMENT, OR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AMENDMENT THAT WE ADOPTED ON GENERAL FILE, GIVES THIS LEGISLATURE MORE FLEXIBILITY AND NOT PLACE ITSELF IN A PASS OR NOT PASS A BILL NEXT YEAR. IT GIVES THE LEGISLATORS COMING BACK MORE TIME TO DIGEST WHAT WE'RE EXPECTING TO BE A VERY THOROUGH, A VERY LENGTHY, AND A VERY INFORMATIVE PERFORMANCE AUDIT ON THIS PROGRAM. IT'S ALWAYS TOUGH TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO MY GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, BUT AS BEING PART OF THAT DISCUSSION OVER THE COURSE OF THE SESSION, I UNDERSTAND WHY THERE WAS A NEED TO MOVE A COUPLE MORE YEARS. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: TIME, SENATOR. [LB1022]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. SENATOR WATERMEIER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST FEEL LIKE I NEED TO RISE A LITTLE BIT TO GIVE A LITTLE HISTORY AND SENATOR GROENE AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING OFF MIKE HERE A LITTLE BIT. I WANT TO SET THE RECORD

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STRAIGHT ON WHAT PERFORMANCE AUDIT CAN AND CAN'T DO AS A COMMITTEE. PERFORMANCE AUDIT CANNOT ACCEPT BILL HEARINGS LIKE ALL THE OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES DO. WE CAN RECOMMEND BILLS, WE CAN WRITE BILLS, AND THEY TYPICALLY GO TO ANOTHER STANDING COMMITTEE. ON THIS PARTICULAR BILL, LB1022 IT WAS ORIGINALLY REFERENCED TO EXEC. SENATOR GLOOR AND I HAD A CONVERSATION THAT HE THOUGHT IT OUGHT TO STAY INSIDE OF REVENUE, AND MY DEFENSE AT THE TIME IN KEEPING IT REFERENCED INSIDE OF EXEC BOARD IS, AND THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE SUNSET DATE. THE SUNSET DATE TO THIS PART OF THE BILL WAS NOT THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE BILL, AND IF YOU LISTEN TO THE REVISER AND THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WE'RE DOING, THE BIG PART OF THE BILL WHY IT STAYED IN EXEC BOARD WAS THAT IT WAS A NEW FUNCTION OF THE LEGISLATURE. WE WERE DEFINING WHO HAS ACCESS TO THESE RECORDS. WE HAD DONE IT LAST YEAR, BUT WE NEEDED TO REFINE IT AND MAKE DARN GOOD AND SURE THAT WE HAD ACCESS TO ALL THE RECORDS. THAT'S NOT SOMETHING THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE ACCESS TO. IT'S SOMETHING THAT IS BIG ENOUGH AND NEW ENOUGH IT FALLS UNDERNEATH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, WHICH HAS BILLS HEARINGS. EVERY DAY AT NOON HOUR WE HEAR BILLS. AND THEY ALL THE TIME PRESENT AMENDMENTS TO BILLS. SO AND SENATOR GROENE AND I HAD A CONVERSATION ABOUT IT, I JUST WANTED TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON THAT REGARD. IT IS TRUE WHAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER IS SAYING. WE CAN GET THE AUDIT DONE WITH THE ONE-YEAR EXTENSION AS MY CHEAT SHEET SHOWS HERE TAKING US BACK TO THE ONE YEAR. BUT AFTER WE HAD THE HEARING, I HAD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL OF THE PEOPLE THAT WERE CONCERNED ABOUT HOW THEY SELL NEBRASKA TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WHEN COMPANIES COME IN AND LOOK AROUND AND THEY LOOK VERY SERIOUSLY AT THESE SUNSET DATES. IF A SUNSET DATE IS ONLY 18 MONTHS AWAY WHEN THEY START LOOKING AT US, THEY JUST WIPE US OFF THE LIST. NOW, YOU CAN ARGUE THAT THAT'S OKAY. THEY SHOULD LOOK SOMEWHERE ELSE BECAUSE THEY MAY GET THE SAME INVESTMENT OR THEY MAY GET WHAT THEY WANT SOMEWHERE ELSE, THAT'S FINE. AND THAT ARGUMENT BELONGS IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. AND I NEVER ARGUED THAT PART OF IT. BUT JUST KEEP IN MIND THAT'S WHY THIS CAME TO EXECUTIVE BOARD. BUT WHAT WE'RE DOING INSIDE LB1022 IS WE'RE HAVING THIS AUDIT OF ALL THESE TAX INCENTIVES. THE AUDIT WILL COME TO THE COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE WILL LOOK AT IT. AND THEN WE ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A JOINT HEARING WITH THE REVENUE COMMITTEE. WE WILL TURN IT OVER TO THEM. WE MANDATE TO THE REVENUE COMMITTEE, YOUR JOB, YOUR TALENTS, YOUR SKILLS, YOU LOOK AT THESE SUNSET DATES, YOU DECIDE

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WHAT'S BEST FOR NEBRASKA. THE WAY I ARGUED THIS ON THE GREEN COPY OF THIS BILL THAT WE NEEDED ANOTHER ONE-YEAR EXTENSION WAS STRICTLY MECHANICAL. WE NEEDED IT BECAUSE WE NEEDED THE TIME TO DO THESE THINGS. AND I GET THE FACT THAT WE GET NERVOUS ABOUT EXTENDING DATES. I GET THE FACT THAT IT TAKE 33 VOTES TO OVERTURN SOMETHING WE DO IN HERE. BUT THE ARGUMENT THAT I'VE GOTTEN BEHIND THE SCENES AFTER WE INTRODUCED THE BILL WAS THEY PREFER TO HAVE THREE YEARS. WHEN I SAY THEY, THAT COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT WORKING FOR NEBRASKA. THEY'RE OUT WORKING TO BRING IN COMPANIES. THEY'RE WORKING TO BRING IN COMPANIES TO LOOK AT NEBRASKA, SO I AGREED TO ALLOW THAT AMENDMENT. I INTRODUCED THE AMENDMENT AND I AGREED TO IT BECAUSE I KNEW THIS DEBATE ON SUNSET WOULD STILL COME TO THE FLOOR. EVEN IF THIS WOULD HAVE WENT THROUGH REVENUE, WE'D PROBABLY STILL HAVE THE SAME ARGUMENT ON THE FLOOR TODAY. THAT'S FAIR GAME. THIS IS WHERE IT SHOULD BE. WE SHOULD BE HAVING IT ON TV. WE SHOULD BE HAVING IT WITH OUR COLLEAGUES AND THIS IS FAIR GAME. BUT I STILL STAND IN OPPOSITION TO AM2398 BECAUSE OF MY RATIONALE, I HAD WHERE I HAD GOTTEN THERE TWO AND A HALF WEEKS AGO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR WATERMEIER. THOSE IN THE QUEUE ARE SENATOR McCOLLISTER, DAVIS, CRAWFORD, BRASCH, AND OTHERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB1022. I'M STILL UNDECIDED ON THE AMENDMENT, BUT IT IS A GOOD THING FOR US TO REVIEW WHETHER OR NOT PERFORMANCE AUDIT AND THE TAX ADVANTAGE ACT ACHIEVES THE GOALS THAT WE WANT IT TO ACHIEVE. I KNOW IT SPENDS, YOU KNOW, IN A WAY IT SPENDS \$100 MILLION A YEAR. IT'S A FORM OF EXPENDITURES, SO WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT IT'S EFFECTIVE AND DOES WHAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO DO. THERE ARE EVEN MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL TELL YOU THAT IT HASN'T QUITE ACHIEVED THE GOALS THAT MOST PEOPLE WANT IT TO ACHIEVE. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD YIELD THE BALANCE OF MY TIME TO THE CHAIR AND I WOULD HOPE YOU WILL VOTE GREEN ON LB1022. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

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SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. COLLEAGUES, I RISE IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT HAVING SERVED ON THAT TASK FORCE. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO AND LOOK AT THESE PROGRAMS AND GET THEM DONE AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN. AS A MEMBER OF THE REVENUE COMMITTEE I ALWAYS MAKE THIS AS A STANDARD LITTLE JOKE AT HOME, BUT I SAID, IT REALLY ISN'T ABOUT REVENUE, IT'S ABOUT TAX CREDITS AND TAX EXEMPTIONS. THAT'S WHAT WE DO THERE. YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO, COLLEAGUES, THAT NEBRASKA IS ASKING FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. THEY WANT IT NOW. I'M ALL FOR ADVANTAGE PROGRAMS IF THEY'RE GOING TO WORK. IF THEY DON'T WORK, THEY NEED TO BE SCRAPPED. HOW WE GOING TO FIND THAT OUT? THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THAT AND THAT'S TO HAVE AN EVALUATION DONE. SO WITH THAT SAID, I RISE IN SUPPORT OF THE BILL AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF AM2398 AND I APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S VIGILANCE IN BRINGING THE AMENDMENT FOR US TO HAVE THIS IMPORTANT DEBATE. I AM FULLY IN SUPPORT OF LB1022 AND SO APPRECIATIVE OF THE WORK OF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE AND THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME DATA TO ANALYZE THESE INCENTIVES AND APPRECIATE THE HARD WORK OF THE TASK FORCE THAT PROPOSED THIS AUDIT. AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE, AS SENATOR SCHUMACHER ALLUDED, I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT THAT DATA AND HAVING A RIGOROUS DISCUSSION OF THAT DATA, HOPEFULLY WHILE STILL SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT ARE ON THAT TASK FORCE ARE STILL HERE IN OUR BODY. I THINK THAT'S REALLY AN IMPORTANT POINT. THE AMENDMENT STILL LEAVES A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION, SO WE STILL HAVE TIME. NOW, MY GOOD FRIEND, SENATOR HARR, SAID THAT IT DIDN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU VOTED FOR AM2398 OR NOT BECAUSE THE REVENUE COMMITTEE WOULD BE COMING BACK WITH A BILL TO REALLY EXAMINE THE ADVANTAGE ACT, EXAMINE THESE INCENTIVES NEXT YEAR EITHER WAY. BUT, COLLEAGUES, I DISAGREE WITH HIS ARGUMENT THAT IT'S INCONSEQUENTIAL BECAUSE IT IS...BECAUSE OF THE OTHER ARGUMENT THAT'S BEING MADE, AND THAT IS THAT WHAT WE DO IN THIS FLOOR MATTERS IN TERMS OF THE EFFORTS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SELLING NEBRASKA ACROSS THE STATE. SO IF WE ARE GOING TO COME BACK

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NEXT YEAR AND SERIOUSLY, RIGOROUSLY, EXAMINE THESE INCENTIVES, AND WITH THE EXTENSION WE ACTUALLY HAVE TWO YEARS TO DO THAT, SO WE HAVE A LITTLE, WE'RE NOT IN A PRESSURE COOKER NEXT YEAR WHERE WE HAVE TO ABSOLUTELY DO SOMETHING NEXT YEAR BECAUSE WE HAVE A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION STILL IN PLACE WITH THIS AMENDMENT. SO, BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE WE ARE PLANNING TO COME BACK AND HAVE A SERIOUS, RIGOROUS DEBATE NEXT YEAR AND IF WHAT HAPPENS DOESN'T PASS NEXT YEAR, WE STILL HAVE ANOTHER YEAR. SO WE HAVE ALL OF NEXT SESSION TO REALLY MAKE SURE THAT WE'VE ADD A RIGOROUS DEBATE AND DECIDE HOW WE WANT TO MOVE FORWARD. SO IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT SELLING NEBRASKA ACROSS THE COUNTRY, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT THOSE PEOPLE THEY'RE TALKING TO KNOW WE ARE GOING TO HAVE THIS DISCUSSION IN '17 AND '18 AND THINGS MIGHT CHANGE. IF WE EXTEND THE DEADLINE THEN WE'RE SENDING THE MESSAGE THAT NOTHING TO GOING TO CHANGE UNTIL 2020. AND THEN WHEN WE TRY TO COME BACK WITH THOSE BILLS IN '17 AND '18, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO SAY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT BECAUSE WE ALREADY WENT OUT THERE, WE ALREADY SOLD NEBRASKA WITH ALL THESE PROMISES. YOU CAN'T COME BACK AND CHANGE THAT. YOU CAN'T COME BACK AND RAISE THE WAGE. YOU CAN'T COME BACK AND TIGHTEN THE RESTRICTIONS. WE ALREADY TOLD PEOPLE THIS IS WHAT WE'RE DOING UNTIL 2020. SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, I THINK, TO KEEP THE TIGHT TIME LINE AND KEEP THE PRESSURE ON OURSELVES IN '17 AND '18 TO COME BACK AND HAVE THIS DISCUSSION WE'RE ALL PROMISING HERE ON THE FLOOR TO HAVE, AND IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THAT DISCUSSION THAT WE'RE ALL PROMISING HERE ON THE FLOOR TO HAVE, THEN THE PEOPLE THAT ARE OUT SELLING NEBRASKA ACROSS THE STATE HAD BETTER BE UP-FRONT ABOUT THE FACT, WE'RE GOING TO COME BACK AND HAVE THIS DISCUSSION IN '17 AND '18 AND IT'S VERY POSSIBLE THAT THINGS MAY CHANGE. AND SO IF YOU'RE COMING TO OUR STATE, IT'S IMPORTANT YOU KNOW THAT. WE'RE HAVING THIS DISCUSSION. SO THAT'S IMPORTANT, I THINK, JUST IN BEING UP-FRONT ABOUT IT, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON. BUT I ALSO THINK IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE REASON THAT SENATOR SCHUMACHER RAISED THAT WE NEED TO KEEP THIS PRESSURE ON OURSELVES. NOW, IF PUSH COMES TO SHOVE AND IN '17 AND '18 WE STILL CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT, WHICH I DON'T THINK WILL HAPPEN, BUT IF THAT HAPPENS.... [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT... WE CAN ALWAYS PASS A BILL THAT EXTENDS THE SUNSET IF WE THINK WE NEED ANOTHER YEAR TO REALLY FIGURE THIS OUT. BUT I AM CONFIDENT IN THE EFFORTS OF THE

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PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE. IF THEY HAVE COOPERATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, I'M CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN GET GOOD DATA TO HAVE THIS RIGOROUS DISCUSSION WE'RE PROMISING TO HAVE IN '17 AND '18, AND SO I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE LEAVE THAT PRESSURE ON. MY DAY JOB IS AS A PROFESSOR AT CREIGHTON, I KNOW THAT DEADLINES ARE IMPORTANT IN CENTIVIZING WORK TO GET DONE, AND I THINK THIS IS A CASE WHERE WE NEED TO KEEP THIS DEADLINE ON OURSELVES SO WE WILL FOLLOW UP. AND I ALSO RECOGNIZE THAT IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE'RE ATTENTIVE TO WHAT WE DO HERE AND HOW IT IMPACTS OUR EFFORTS TO RECRUIT PEOPLE ACROSS THE STATE, BUT I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE SAY WE'RE GOING TO BE RIGOROUS ABOUT THIS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE'RE UP-FRONT ABOUT THAT AS RECRUITING ACROSS THE COUNTRY ANYWAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. THE COOKIES BEING DISTRIBUTED ARE IN CELEBRATION OF SENATOR SEILER'S BIRTHDAY TODAY. HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SENATOR SEILER. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, AND GOOD MORNING ONCE AGAIN, COLLEAGUES. I'VE DONE A LITTLE MORE RESEARCH. I'VE PULLED UP INFORMATION. I'VE ALSO VISITED WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OUR BUSINESS COMMUNITY, AND I CANNOT SUPPORT SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S AMENDMENT AT THIS TIME. IT IS CONCERNING IN THE FACT THAT MANY BUSINESSES, LARGER BUSINESSES, WILL NEED AT LEAST A YEAR OR MORE OF TIME TO MAKE A DETERMINATION. WHEN SENATOR DAVIS HAD SAID, YOU KNOW, OUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY AND WHAT WE DO IN THE REVENUE COMMITTEE IS TALKING ABOUT CREDITS AND TAXES AND OTHER, IS, REVENUE IS IMPORTANT. IT IS IMPORTANT IN GROWING OUR TAX BASE. THAT'S HOW WE CAN LOWER OUR TAXES, WHETHER IT'S INCOME TAX OR PROPERTY TAX. WHEN WE HAVE MORE INDIVIDUALS THAT WILL HELP PULL THAT WAGON, THEN WE ARE IN BETTER FISCAL SHAPE. WE NEED THE BUSINESSES. SENATOR SCHUMACHER ADDRESSED IT AS, I QUOTE, THE RICH. WELL, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RICH IN JOBS, RICH IN OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS AND FIELDS THAT COMPLEMENT OUR AGRIBUSINESSES AND OUR COMMUNITIES. THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE ARE SEEING NOT ONLY NATIONALLY, BUT GLOBALLY, ARE TECHNOLOGY BUSINESSES THAT WORK EXTREMELY WELL IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES BECAUSE THEY RELY ON TECHNOLOGY AND NOT LAND. SO WITH LAND AND TECHNOLOGY, I THINK WE CAN GROW OUR TAX BASE. COMPETITION FOR BUSINESS IS FIERCE. IT'S FIERCE ACROSS OUR STATE, IT IS FIERCE ACROSS OUR

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NATION, AND, YES, YOU REALIZE MORE THAN ANYONE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, GLOBALLY. YOU OFTEN TALK ABOUT THE GLOBAL DOLLAR AND GLOBAL PRESENCE AND HOW IT AFFECTS US. SO WE HAVE TO BE MINDFUL OF THAT AS WE CHALLENGE ANY OF OUR CREDITS THAT COULD CREATE NEW JOBS, COULD CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES. SOME OF THE JOBS ARE VIRTUAL WHERE IN OUR SMALLER RURAL COMMUNITIES, I KNOW OF MANY INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE NOW WORKING, LIKE MYSELF, FROM THE INTERNET, FROM OUR TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND ABLE TO HELP SUPPLEMENT OUR FARM INCOMES. SO I WOULD MOVE FORWARD VERY, VERY CAUTIOUSLY AS WE TRY TO RESTRICT BUSINESS, BECAUSE AS WE DO THAT, RIGHT OVER OUR BORDER, OUR NEIGHBORS ARE GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AND WELCOMING NEW BUSINESS ON MANY LEVELS. IT IS WISE TO BE PRUDENT. WE HAVE PERFORMANCE-BASED INCENTIVES, JOBS, AND DOLLAR AMOUNTS ARE MANDATES THAT WE PLACE UPON THESE BUSINESSES. SO I DO STAND IN SUPPORT OF LB1022 AND LEARNING THAT THE OPPOSITION TO AM2398 IS A CONCERN ON THE WELL-BEING OF OUR POTENTIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN OUR STATE, I CANNOT SUPPORT IT, RESPECTFULLY, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, COLLEAGUES, AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. MY, WHAT INTERESTING THINGS WE LEARN ABOUT OUR PROCESS HERE. WE HAD SOMETHING THAT WAS FLYING AT MACH 10 UNDER THE RADAR SCREEN, AND AT LEAST WHAT WE HAVE THIS MORNING IS A DISCUSSION THAT BEGINS TO UNCOVER WHAT IS ABOARD THAT AIRCRAFT. IF THERE IS A NEED A YEAR FROM NOW TO EXTEND THIS OUT ANOTHER YEAR, WE CAN DO THAT. IF WE DON'T PASS AM2398, THEN THE SHOE WILL BE ON THE OTHER FOOT TO OVERCOME WHAT EVERYONE KNOWS A VERY, VERY POWERFUL INTEREST IN THE LOBBY THAT PROBABLY CAN MUSTER THE 30...OR TO STOP THE 33 VOTES TO END THE FILIBUSTER AND KILL A REFORM THAT IS NOT LIKED BY THE PEOPLE THAT ARE GETTING A REALLY GOOD DEAL UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM. SO AM2398 PROTECTS THE LEGISLATURE'S OPTIONS NEXT YEAR. WE DON'T PASS IT, WE FOREGO THOSE OPTIONS FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS. AND SOMETIMES THESE GAMES ARE ONE STEP AT A TIME, YOU EXTEND IT TWO YEARS, YOU FIND AN EXCUSE TO EXTEND ANOTHER TWO YEARS. THE PEOPLE IN THE BODY CHANGE, THE NEW PEOPLE COME IN, CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, AND THE LEGISLATURE IS UNABLE TO ACT. WE HAVE PLENTY OPPORTUNITY IF THE NEED BE SHOWN FOR NEXT YEAR TO EXTEND IT IF THAT IS JUSTIFIED, OR IF THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE CANNOT COME

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BACK WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT ARE RESOLVED, AND IF SENATOR HARR'S EFFORTS FAIL TO BRING FORTH A SUBSTANTIVE PROPOSAL THAT IS AGREEABLE. WE HAVE THOSE OPTIONS. THIS IS ABOUT OUR OPTION TO CONTROL THESE HUGE INCENTIVES AND EXPENDITURES. MAKING CHANGES IN ANY OF THESE PROGRAMS IS TOUGH, BECAUSE SO MUCH MONEY IS INVOLVED. AND IT'S ONE REASON WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE A SWEEPING CHANGE, GET DOWN INTO THE WEEDS ABOUT BEGINNING FARMER AND HISTORIC CREDITS AND ALL THAT, BECAUSE THOSE, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE TENS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, ARE MINOR IN COMPARISON TO THIS THING. WE SHOULD NOT GIVE UP OUR OPTION TO CONTROL THE FATE OF THIS MAJOR, MAJOR EXPENDITURE, AND THAT IS WHAT WE'D BE DOING IF WE JUST MOVE IT DOWN THE ROAD, PARTICULARLY BEYOND THE TIME THAT SOME OF US WHO HAVE SPENT A LOT OF TIME ON THIS ARE NO LONGER HERE AND THE CYCLE HAS TO START OVER. AM2398 IS A WISE MOVE. IT HARMS NO ONE AND THE ARGUMENT THAT, OH, WE NEED TO KEEP A PIPELINE FULL WASN'T MADE UNTIL THIS YEAR. IT WASN'T MADE BEFORE THE LR COMMITTEE, IT WASN'T MADE LAST YEAR. IT'S A NEW ONE. IT'S ONE ATTEMPT TO BUNT THE BALL TO KEEP THINGS IN THE STATUS QUO. WE NEED TO BRING THIS TO A HEAD. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. WE ARE COMING UP ON A TIME OF GRAVE, GRAVE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY. WE'RE WRESTLING WITH PROPERTY TAXES, HAVE NO IDEA WHAT WE'RE GOING TO GET, WHATEVER IT IS, TENS OF MILLIONS, HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF DEPENDING ON WHICH WAY THE WIND BLOWS ON THAT. THESE ARE IMPORTANT THINGS. WE NEED TO KEEP OUR OPTIONS OPEN. WE NEED TO STAY IN CONTROL OF THE HELM OF THIS SHIP OF FINANCE. WE CAN'T SUCCUMB TO, WELL, WE MADE A DEAL THREE MONTHS AGO... [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ...INVOLVING SOME SENATORS AND NOT OTHERS, SO WE'VE GOT TO STAND BY OUR DEAL. WELL, THE DEAL WAS, THE RICH AND POWERFUL WANTED THEM ALL TO GO AWAY AND, BOY, THIS HALFWAY DEAL WAS A GOOD DEAL. NO, WE'RE IN CONTROL OF THIS SHIP. WE CAN MAKE A DECISION WHETHER WE WANT TO GIVE UP CONTROL, WHETHER WE WANT TO SADDLE OURSELVES WITH 33 VOTE REQUIREMENTS, OR IF WE WANT TO DO WHAT'S WISE AND PROCEED AS WE DECIDED A YEAR AGO ON A COURSE THAT WAS WISE A YEAR AGO, WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO YIELD TO THE "MINUTIAEONS" OF--I THINK I JUST MADE UP A WORD--OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS TO HINDER THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE. I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF AM2398 AND THEN I'LL SUPPORT LB1022. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

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SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING AGAIN, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES AND NEBRASKA. YOU KNOW WHY I SAY GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA, AND I STARTED OUT, SENATOR CARLSON TOLD ME A LONG TIME AGO, WHEN YOU SAY GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA, YOU REMIND YOURSELF THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE LISTENING TO YOU SO YOU DON'T MAKE A FOOL OUT OF YOURSELF OR SAY SOMETHING YOU REGRET. SO I DO, NORMALLY, NOT REGRET IT. YEAH, HOW'S THAT WORK FOR ME? THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS THAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE SITUATION THAT I THINK WE'RE IN. THE REFERENCING PROCESS TOOK THIS BILL TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD WHO WRESTLED WITH WHETHER OR NOT IT SHOULD GO TO REVENUE OR SHOULD GO TO EXEC BOARD, AND I DON'T THINK I SAID IT STRONGLY ENOUGH BEFORE AND I WANT TO PUT IT ON THE RECORD. IT WENT TO THE RIGHT COMMITTEE. IT WENT TO THE EXEC BOARD BECAUSE THIS WAS A PROBLEM OF OVERSIGHT THAT THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE COULD NOT GET THE INFORMATION THAT IT NEEDED IN A TIMELY MANNER TO APPLY THE OVERSIGHT. SO ALL THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE ABOUT YOU NOT BEING HERE IN TWO OR THREE YEARS, THIS IS YOUR PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE. THIS REPORT IS GOING TO COME OUT, AND IT'S GOING TO SAY EITHER THESE PROGRAMS WORK OR THEY DON'T WORK. READ THE REPORTS, AND PASS THEM ON TO YOUR SUCCESSOR, NO MATTER WHO HE OR SHE IS. MENTOR THE PERSON SITTING NEXT TO YOU IN YOUR COMMITTEE AND MAKE SURE THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED HISTORICALLY THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU. THEY MAY NOT BE IMPORTANT TO HIM OR HER, BUT AT LEAST PASS THEM ON. CONTINUITY BOOKS, MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS, THOSE KINDS OF THINGS, BECAUSE, FOLKS, CONSTITUTIONALLY, THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE ARE NEVER GOING TO DO AWAY WITH TERM LIMITS. THEY'RE JUST NOT GOING TO DO IT. SO IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THE CONTINUITY WE NEED TO DO THE THINGS WE NEED TO DO IN HERE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PASS THIS INFORMATION ON. WHEN I FIRST CAME INTO THIS BODY, THERE WAS A GROUP THAT TOLD ME THAT THERE WAS A THING CALLED A SUNSET. I WENT TO THE CLERK AND I SAID VERY SIMPLY, WHAT'S A SUNSET, AND HOW DO I KNOW IF SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY SUNSETTING? WELL, IT HASN'T BEEN A PROBLEM BEFORE TERM LIMITS BECAUSE PEOPLE ACTUALLY REMEMBERED WHAT THEY DID, BECAUSE THEY WERE HERE FOR 30 OR 40 YEARS, OR EVEN 20. SO WE INITIATED A PROCESS WITH THE REVISER'S OFFICE WHEREBY IF SOMETHING WAS COMING UP THIS YEAR, OR THIS TIME WHEN WE'RE IN SESSION WOULD BE SUNSETTED, WE WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE NOTIFIED OF THAT AND MOVE FORWARD. I THINK IT'S

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IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND HISTORY SO WE AVOID NOT TO REPEAT THE THINGS THAT DON'T WORK OR HAVE NOT WORKED FOR THE STATE OR THE THINGS THAT ARE NOT CURRENTLY WORKING CAN BE TURNED OFF. I UNDERSTAND SENATOR SCHUMACHER'S CONCERNS. I GOT UP ON THIS MIKE AND SAID THAT I WOULD SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT. AND THEN I GOT CALLED OUT THERE BEHIND THAT GLASS AND TOLD, I DIDN'T KEEP MY DEAL BY PUTTING THREE YEARS ON. WELL, I DON'T MAKE DEALS FOR 48 OTHER SENATORS. I MAKE DEALS FOR ME, AND IF THEY DON'T MAKE SENSE, I CERTAINLY AM NOT GOING TO KEEP MY WORD IF IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. AND BY THE WAY, I DIDN'T SAY I WOULD VOTE FOR THREE YEARS CONSISTENTLY THROUGHOUT. I SAID THE PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE NEEDED TO FINISH ITS PRODUCT, AND WE WOULD EVALUATE IT. AND IF THAT WAS GOING TO TAKE LONGER THAN A YEAR, THEN WE NEEDED TO EXTEND THAT PERIOD OF TIME. NEW INFORMATION. FLASH, FLASH. NEW INFORMATION. PERFORMANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE IS GOING TO FINISH IN TIME. THIS WILL DO IT. SUPPORT AM2398. LET'S VOTE LB1022 BACK UP ON SELECT, GREEN VOTE, VOICE VOTE, WHATEVER WE NEED TO DO, AND LET'S MOVE ON. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: ONE MINUTE. [LB1022]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR KRIST SAID IT ALL REALLY WELL, BUT I REALLY GOT UP JUST TO ESSENTIALLY SAY I AM NOT AGAINST JOB GROWTH. I AM NOT AGAINST BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. I AM NOT AGAINST DEVELOPING OUR STATE IN ANY WAY, SHAPE, OR FORM, BUT WHAT I AM FOR IS ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY. AND IF THESE CREDITS ARE GREAT, FINE, AND IF THEY AREN'T GOOD, WE NEED TO DO AWAY WITH THEM. AND THE ONLY WAY WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT IS TO GET THAT PROCESS DONE QUICKLY, RESPONSIBLY, AND THOROUGHLY. SO WITH THAT, AGAIN, I WOULD URGE YOU TO SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT AND SUPPORT THE UNDERLYING BILL. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON AM2398. [LB1022]

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SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I THINK WE'VE HAD A GOOD DISCUSSION TODAY. AND I THINK WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO IS, DO WE AS A BODY WANT TO KEEP THE OPTION OPEN FOR US. WE'VE SEEN HOW MUCH EFFORT HAPPENS IN THE LOBBY OVER A SIMPLE AMENDMENT OF WHETHER OR NOT TO EXTEND IT TWO YEARS OR NOT, ALL THE ACTIVITY. IMAGINING IF WE WERE DEALING WITH REMOVING REAL MONEY FROM SOMEBODY'S POCKET AND PUTTING IT IN SOMEBODY ELSE'S POCKET, OR MAYBE JUST GETTING RID OF THE PROGRAM ALTOGETHER, DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET 33 VOTES? I DON'T THINK SO. I DON'T EXPECT 33 VOTES ON AM2398 BECAUSE THAT POWER OUT THERE IS TOO POWERFUL. WEEKS, MONTHS AHEAD OF TIME, DEALS WERE MADE. BUT IN THE END, INDIVIDUALLY, EACH OF US, WHEN WE SENSE A PROBLEM IN THOSE PAPERS THAT WERE PRESENTED TO VOTE ON, NEED TO GET UP AND TELL THE OTHERS. THE DOG IN THE PACK SLEEPING AT NIGHT NEEDS TO BARK SO EVERYBODY ELSE KNOWS THAT THE PACK IS UNDER ATTACK. THAT'S PART OF OUR PROCESS. WE ARE ALL CONSCIENTIOUS, WE ARE ALL IN FAVOR OF BUSINESS. WE ARE ALL IN FAVOR OF THE TAXPAYER. LET US ALL BE IN FAVOR OF RETAINING THE ABILITY TO MANEUVER IN THESE TROUBLED WATERS. AND THAT'S WHAT AM2398 DOES. IT PUTS IN THE HANDS OF 25 OF US THE ABILITY TO STEER THE SHIP, FREE FROM THE OBSTRUCTION OF MAYBE 17, PUSHED AND TWEAKED BY THOSE BEHIND THE GLASS. AND I THINK PROBABLY WE HAVE A COMMON INTEREST WITH MANY PEOPLE BEHIND THE GLASS, BUT IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HAVE THE BUCK STOP ON OUR DESK RATHER THAN HANDCUFF US AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE IN THIS BODY LATER. THESE ARE TITANIC ISSUES. THIS IS A SIMPLE AMENDMENT THAT STANDS OUR GROUND FROM LAST YEAR, DOES NOT REWARD ADMINISTRATIVE FEET-DRAGGING, AND LET'S THE WORLD KNOW THAT WE ARE UNDER PRESSURE TO DO THINGS RIGHT AND NOT KICK A CAN DOWN THE ROAD BECAUSE WE HAVE A CONVENIENT EXCUSE THAT, OH, WELL, IT WON'T SUNSET UNTIL I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT ANYMORE. I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT. I THANK YOU FOR THE HOUR THAT WE JUST SPENT DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE. I HOPE THAT WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BIT SMARTER ABOUT THESE THINGS CALLED TAX CREDITS AND HOW DANGEROUS THEY CAN BE AND HOW THEY CAN SNEAK UP TO INTO HUGE, HUGE AMOUNTS THAT IMPACT OUR ABILITY TO DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO WITH PRISONS, FROM MENTAL HEALTH, WITH RETIREMENT TO PROPERTY TAX RELIEF, OR INCOME TAX RELIEF. THESE ARE TITANIC ISSUES. IT WAS AN HOUR WELL SPENT. IT'S IN YOUR HANDS. THANK YOU. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON AM2398. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDMENT. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE

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NAY. THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1022]

CLERK: 33 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, IF YOU WOULD CHECK IN, PLEASE. SENATOR SEILER, IF YOU WOULD CHECK IN, PLEASE. SENATOR SEILER, IF YOU WOULD CHECK IN, PLEASE. WHAT IS YOUR PREFERENCE ON A VOTE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER? [LB1022]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: ROLL CALL VOTE IN REGULAR ORDER. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REGULAR ORDER. MR. CLERK. [LB1022]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 938-939.) 14 AYES, 20 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE AMENDMENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: THE AMENDMENT FAILS. WE ARE NOW BACK TO LB1022. RAISE THE CALL. [LB1022]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: SENATOR HANSEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB1022]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB1022 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB1022]

SPEAKER HADLEY: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR SIGNIFY BY SAYING AYE. OPPOSED SAY NAY. THE ADVANCEMENT OCCURS. MR. CLERK. [LB1022]

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CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR HANSEN, LB897, I HAVE E&R AMENDMENTS, SENATOR. (ER173, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 743.) [LB897]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB897]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB897. [LB897]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE E&R AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB897]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON LB897, SENATOR. [LB897]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB897]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB897 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB897]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB897 DOES ADVANCE. [LB897]

CLERK: LB919, SENATOR. I HAVE ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER175, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 791.) [LB919]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB919]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB919. [LB919]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE E&R AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB919]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB919]

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SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB919]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB919 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB919]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB919 DOES ADVANCE. [LB919]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB919A, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS TO THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB919A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB919A]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB919A TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB919A]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB919A DOES ADVANCE. NEXT ITEM, MR. CLERK. [LB919A]

CLERK: LB710, SENATOR, HAS ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. (ER177, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 805.) [LB710]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB710]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADOPT THE E&R AMENDMENTS TO LB710. [LB710]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. THE E&R AMENDMENTS ARE ADOPTED. [LB710]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, SENATOR. [LB710]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB710]

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SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB710 TO E&R FOR ENGROSSING. [LB710]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB710 DOES ADVANCE. NEXT ITEM, MR. CLERK. [LB710]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB722, I DO NOT HAVE E&Rs. SENATOR BAKER WOULD MOVE TO AMEND THE BILL WITH AM2435. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 888.) [LB722]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON AM2435. [LB722]

SENATOR BAKER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I AM OFFERING AM2435 TO AM2126 THAT WAS ADOPTED ON GENERAL FILE. AM2435 ONLY ADDS AN OPERATIVE DATE OF JANUARY 1, 2017, IN TWO SECTIONS OF THE BILL, SECTION 6 AND 8. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES WILL NEED TIME TO CREATE THE TASK FORCE AND TO PUBLISH THE GUIDELINES FOR BECOMING COMPREHENSIVE STROKE CENTERS, PRIMARY STROKE CENTERS, OR ACUTE STROKE-READY HOSPITAL. AFTER THE PUBLISHED INFORMATION, EACH HOSPITAL THROUGH SECTION 6 WILL DETERMINE WHETHER IT WILL SECURE A SPECIFIC STROKE DESIGNATION OR IMPLEMENT A PREDETERMINED PART OF THE TRIAGE AND TRANSFER OF PATIENTS. SECTION 8 REQUIRES AN EMS USE A STROKE ASSESSMENT TOOL AND ESTABLISH PREHOSPITAL PROTOCOLS RELATED TO THE TREATMENT AND TRANSPORT OF A STROKE PATIENT. THESE TOOLS HAVE TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE ASSESSMENT TOOL ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT. THE MAIN PORTION OF THE BILL BECOMES EFFECTIVE THREE CALENDAR MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE ADJOURNMENT. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD THEN BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STROKE SYSTEM OF CARE ACT. WE HAVE A NEW FISCAL NOTE. YOU KNOW, THE ORIGINAL LB722 HAD A LARGE FISCAL NOTE, \$248,394 THE FIRST YEAR AND \$300,000 IN FISCAL YEAR '17-18. THE NEW FISCAL NOTE IS FOR \$74,646 IN FISCAL YEAR '16-17 AND \$84,492. I URGE THE ADOPTION OF AM2435 AND UNDERLYING BILLS. THANK YOU. [LB722]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BAKER. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING ON AM2435. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN FOR DISCUSSION. SEEING NONE, SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR AMENDMENT. SENATOR BAKER WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS, SHALL

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AM2435 BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED VOTE NAY.
RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB722]

CLERK: 26 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF SENATOR
BAKER'S AMENDMENT. [LB722]

SENATOR COASH: AM2435 IS ADOPTED. [LB722]

CLERK: I HAVE NOTHING FURTHER ON THE BILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB722]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB722]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB722 TO E&R FOR
ENGROSSING. [LB722]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR
SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB722 DOES ADVANCE. MEMBERS, WE WILL NOW MOVE
BACK UP THE AGENDA. EXCUSE ME. MR. CLERK, NEXT ITEM. [LB722]

CLERK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. LB857, SENATOR, I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS
TO THE BILL. [LB857]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HANSEN FOR A MOTION. [LB857]

SENATOR HANSEN: MR. PRESIDENT, I MOVE WE ADVANCE LB857 TO E&R FOR
ENGROSSING. [LB857]

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR
SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. LB857 DOES ADVANCE. MEMBERS, NOW WE WILL
RETURN TO GENERAL FILE APPROPRIATION BILLS TO LB1082A. MR. CLERK.
[LB857 LB1082A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR SCHILZ OFFERS LB1082A. (READ TITLE.)
[LB1082A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SCHILZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB1082A.
[LB1082A]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BODY. FIRST THING, I NEED TO DO IS APOLOGIZE TO EVERYONE FOR NOT BEING HERE EARLIER TO DO THIS IN ORDER, AND FOR THAT, I'M VERY SORRY. I GOT STUCK IN A MEETING AND DIDN'T WATCH THE CLOCK. SO I WON'T TAKE UP A WHOLE LOT OF TIME. LB1082A WILL GIVE THE OIL AND GAS COMMISSION THE EXTRA FUNDS THAT IT NEEDS TO CARRY OUT THE THINGS THAT WE PRESCRIBE FOR THEM TO DO IN LB1082. THEY ACTUALLY HAVE A COUPLE POSITIONS THAT THEY NEED TO FILL. AND THIS MONEY GIVES THEM THE ABILITY TO DO THAT AS WELL AS GIVES THEM THE ABILITY TO DO THEIR TESTS AND OTHER THINGS REQUIRED BY THE LAW. SO WITH THAT, I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LB1082A. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB1082A LB1082]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO LB1082A. SEEING NO ONE WISHING TO SPEAK. SENATOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. HE WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS, SHALL LB1082A ADVANCE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED WHO WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB1082A]

CLERK: 27 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB1082A. [LB1082A]

SENATOR COASH: LB1082A DOES ADVANCE. ITEMS, MR. CLERK. [LB1082A]

CLERK: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB447, LB447A, LB698, LB704 AND LB830 AS CORRECTLY ENGROSSED. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORTS LB1032 TO GENERAL FILE WITH COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS ATTACHED. AND LR415 REPORTED BACK TO THE LEGISLATURE AND THE FLOOR FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. I HAVE A CONFIRMATION REPORT FROM HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE. AN AMENDMENT TO BE PRINTED FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS TO LB768. SENATOR LARSON OFFERS LR475 AND LR476. THOSE WILL BOTH BE LAID OVER, MR. PRESIDENT. REVENUE COMMITTEE IS MEETING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 10:30 IN ROOM 2022. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 939-943.) [LB447 LB447A LB698 LB704 LB830 LB1032 LR415 LB768 LR475 LR476]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. MEMBERS, WE'LL NOW GO TO GENERAL FILE, LB745. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WOULD YOU TAKE ONE MINUTE TO BRIEF US ON LB745. [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, SIR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. IT'S THE LEGISLATURE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH FEE INCREASES AND FEE RANGES FOR THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION. YOU KNOW, THEY WILL THEN CHANGE THE FEES FOR PERMITS, STAMPS, AND LICENSES AS NEEDED. THE LAST UPDATE OCCURRED IN 2003, AND THE FEE SCHEDULE WAS LAST CHANGED IN 2010. SO IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO RELOOK AT THE FEE SCHEDULE FOR GAME AND PARKS. IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION TO SUPPORT AND REWORK AND PROVIDE MAINTENANCE FOR THEIR FACILITIES, AND LB745 GOES TO THAT END. IN NEBRASKA, USER FEES FUND PRIMARILY ALL OF THE GAME AND PARKS BUDGET. EIGHTY-SEVEN PERCENT OF THE BUDGET COMES FROM USER FEES AND ONLY 13 PERCENT FROM THE GENERAL FUND SO, THEREFORE, IT'S INCUMBENT UPON US TO KEEP THOSE FEES, PERMITS, AND LICENSES CURRENT, AND THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL ATTEMPTS TO DO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE BILL BUT A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO BRACKET LB745 UNTIL APRIL 20, 2016. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THE AMENDMENT UP THERE THAT MY PRIORITY MOTION WILL SUPPLANT IS MY AMENDMENT. WHAT THAT AMENDMENT SAYS, TO MAKE IT BLUNT: THAT THIS BILL WOULD BE GUTTED AND MY BILL TO DO AWAY WITH THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION'S AUTHORITY TO AUTHORIZE MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING SEASONS WOULD TAKE THE PLACE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS BILL. BUT THERE ARE OTHER THINGS AFOOT, AND RATHER THAN PULL THAT AMENDMENT, I'M OFFERING THIS MOTION SO THAT THERE CAN BE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION. AND I WANT EVERYTHING TO BE ABOVEBOARD AND ON THE RECORD, SO I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR McCOLLISTER A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, INDEED. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND, SENATOR McCOLLISTER, THESE QUESTIONS GO TO ESTABLISHING THE APPROACH THAT I AM COMPELLED TO TAKE. YOU ARE NOT IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF THIS BILL, ARE YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THIS WHOLE BODY CONTROLS THIS BILL. I'M SIMPLY THE SPONSOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HERE'S WHAT I MEAN BY THAT. YOU COULD NOT AGREE TO ACCEPT ANY AMENDMENT TO THIS BILL WITHOUT CLEARING IT WITH GAME AND PARKS, COULD YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I MADE THAT COMMITMENT TO THEM, AND I WILL CONTINUE THAT COMMITMENT UNTIL I HEAR OTHERWISE OR CAN PERSUADE THEM THAT SOME OTHER APPROACH IS IN THEIR BEST INTEREST. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO NOW I'M GOING TO ASK THAT QUESTION AGAIN, BUT I WILL REPHRASE IT. YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE INDEPENDENT DECISIONS AS TO CHANGES IN THIS BILL, WHICH MEANS YOU'RE NOT IN COMPLETE CONTROL. IS THAT TRUE OR FALSE? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I WOULD SAY THAT I WILL MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON WHAT'S IN THE BEST INTEREST OF GAME AND PARKS AND THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: TO CONTINUE, AND WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF GAME AND PARKS WILL BE DETERMINED BY GAME AND PARKS, AND THEY WILL PASS IT ON TO YOU. ISN'T THAT ACCURATE? YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE COY. WE KNOW HOW THINGS ARE DONE ON THIS FLOOR, BUT I WANT IT IN THE RECORD. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT'S INCUMBENT UPON ME TO ASK THEIR OPINIONS ON HOW LEGISLATION COULD AFFECT THAT ORGANIZATION, AND I THINK, AS A GOOD SENATOR AND SPONSOR OF THIS BILL, THAT'S WHAT I INTEND TO DO. [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: NOW I'M GOING TO TRY TO PIN YOU DOWN. AND YOU WILL BE BOUND BY WHATEVER THEIR DECISION IS THAT THEY PASS ON TO YOU. ISN'T THAT TRUE? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: NOT NECESSARILY, BUT I WILL CERTAINLY LISTEN TO THEIR COMMENTS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, TELL ME WHAT WOULD INTERVENE TO PREVENT YOU FROM WALKING LOCKSTEP WITH THEM AS FAR AS THEIR OPINION AS TO HOW THIS BILL SHOULD BE HANDLED? WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO GET YOU OUT OF LOCKSTEP, WHICH IS WHERE YOU ARE RIGHT NOW? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I THINK YOU'VE GIVEN AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD PROBABLY DO THAT, BUT I NEED TO CONFER WITH MY GAME AND PARKS AND SOME OF THE OTHER SENATORS TO DECIDE HOW TO APPROACH THAT POSSIBLE AMENDMENT THAT YOU COULD OFFER. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY WITH, QUOTE, MY MASTERS; AND HAD YOU SAID THAT, I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT, BUT YOU'RE ALLOWED TO OBFUSCATE A BIT IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN YOUR DIGNITY HERE. THANKS. THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO ASK YOU AT THIS POINT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WANT YOU ALL TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT I'M DOING, AND I WANT YOU TO TAKE NOTE OF HOW MUCH TIME WE HAVE. AND WE'RE AT THE POINT WHERE I USUALLY GIVE A RENDERING OF THAT SONG: (SINGING) TIME IS ON MY SIDE, YES, IT IS. AND I'LL TAKE THAT TIME, AND I WILL TAKE IT ON SELECT FILE, I WILL TAKE IT ON GENERAL FILE, I WILL TAKE IT ON FINAL READING, AND I WILL TAKE IT ON THE LAST DAY OF THE SESSION. SO IF THERE ARE BILLS TO BE READ ON FINAL READING, WE WON'T GET TO THEM, BECAUSE I WILL KEEP US HERE UNTIL THE END OF THAT LEGISLATIVE DAY. I WISH THAT SENATOR SMITH WERE HERE IN THE CHAMBER. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER HE IS SO I'LL ASK IF SENATOR SMITH IS IN THE CHAMBER. WELL, I'M GOING TO STATE THIS, AND WHEREVER HE IS, HE MAY BE LISTENING, AND IF HE DOESN'T LISTEN, YOU CAN ASK HIM. I HAD BEEN TREATED IN A WAY--ON THIS VERY ISSUE OF THE MOUNTAIN LIONS--IN A WAY THAT I THOUGHT WAS WRONG, SO I HAD DRAFTED MY BILL AS AN AMENDMENT TO EVERY BILL ON FINAL READING. EVEN IF THE BILL HAD A SUBJECT MATTER WHICH MIGHT RENDER MY PROPOSED AMENDMENT NOT GERMANE, WE WOULD HAVE TO DISCUSS MY MOTION TO RETURN THE BILL TO SELECT FILE FOR MY SPECIFIC AMENDMENT. AND WE COULD EITHER DISCUSS THAT AMENDMENT OR WE COULD DISCUSS

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THE ISSUE OF WHETHER IT'S GERMANE. IT MADE ME NO DIFFERENCE, BECAUSE TIME BEING CONSUMED IS WAS WHAT WAS MY INTENTION, AND SENATORS SAW THAT I WAS NOT BLUFFING. THEY BECAME NERVOUS. THEY BECAME ANTSY. THEY BECAME DESPERATE. SO INSTEAD OF ADDRESSING WHAT I WAS OFFERING, THEY BEGAN TO MAKE SOME OF THE STATEMENTS THAT ARE MADE ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE SESSION WHERE YOU COMPLIMENT SO-AND-SO FOR HAVING BEEN HERE AND THE OTHER LAUDATORY WORDS. THEN SENATOR SMITH CAME TO ME, AND I CAN ONLY PARAPHRASE. HE SAID, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND I UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH THIS MEANS TO YOU, BUT THE FAMILIES OF THE VARIOUS MEMBERS HAD NO PART TO PLAY IN ANYTHING THAT TOOK PLACE ON THIS FLOOR, THEY CAME HERE TODAY AT THE INVITATION OF WHATEVER SENATOR--REMEMBER, I'M PARAPHRASING--AND THIS THAT'S BEING DONE WILL PREVENT THE THINGS THAT THEY WERE LED TO BELIEVE WOULD TAKE PLACE FROM HAPPENING. SO ON THAT BASIS I'M ASKING, WILL YOU RELENT? AND I TOLD SENATOR SMITH, YOU BROUGHT TO ME THE ONLY APPEAL THAT COULD MAKE ME RELENT, AND YOU'VE REACHED ME IN THE ONLY VULNERABLE SPOT THAT I HAVE. SO I BEGAN TO REMOVE OR WITHDRAW MY AMENDMENT. EACH TIME A BILL CAME UP AND THE CLERK MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS AN AMENDMENT PENDING, I WOULD IMMEDIATELY WITHDRAW THE AMENDMENT. BUT I MADE IT CLEAR, I BELIEVE, THAT THAT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN. I AM PROOF AGAINST THAT. GAME AND PARKS HAS HAD BILLS BEFORE US WHICH COMPRISED WHAT I CALL LOW-HANGING FRUIT. I COULD HAVE ATTACKED THOSE BILLS HAD I CHOSEN TO DO SO. BUT IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I HAD SAID I WOULD DO AT THAT TIME, SO I DIDN'T DO IT. WHEN THEIR PROPOSITIONS CAME UP ON THE APPROPRIATIONS BILL, I LEFT THEM ALONE; OTHER BILLS THAT IN A TANGENTIAL WAY AT LEAST HAD A BEARING ON THE INTEREST AND FORTUNES OF GAME AND PARKS, AND I LET THEM GO. THEN I ASKED THE SENATOR WHO WAS FAVORING THE GAME AND PARKS LEGISLATION, BASED ON MY ATTITUDE, COULD THOSE BILLS BE DEEMED LOW-HANGING FRUIT WHICH COULD BE ATTACKED? AND HE SAID YES, BUT I DIDN'T DO IT. BUT THIS SESSION, I'M GOING TO DO IT. IF YOU LOOK AT THIS BILL ITSELF, AND I'LL BET NOBODY HAS READ IT COMPLETELY, NOBODY OTHER THAN MYSELF...I GAVE TO SENATOR McCOLLISTER A COPY OF THIS BILL AND ALL OF THE AMENDMENTS THAT I CRAFTED, WRITTEN IN RED, GRAMMATICAL IMPROVEMENTS, BETTER CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS THAT WERE MADE, ELIMINATION OF SUPERFLUOUS LANGUAGE THAT'S IN THE EXISTING LAW, AND I TOOK TIME ON THAT PIECE OF LEGISLATION. I AM PREPARED TO TAKE THE TIME. I WILL ONLY HAVE A TOTAL OF SIX HOURS ON GENERAL FILE ON THIS BILL. A TOTAL OF HOWEVER MANY--I WILL TALK TO THE SPEAKER--HAS BEEN GRANTED TO OTHER BILLS ON SELECT FILE. I'VE BEEN TOLD FOUR HOURS, HOW

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MANY HOURS HAVE BEEN GRANTED TO BILLS ON FINAL READING. BUT WHETHER FEW OR MANY,... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I SHALL NOT BE DETERRED, I SHALL NOT RELENT. AND GAME AND PARKS IS GOING TO HELP YOU ALL SEE HOW MUCH CONTROL THEY HAVE ON THIS LEGISLATURE AND HOW THEY, INDEED, SET THE AGENDA. YOU HAVEN'T EVEN READ EVERY ONE OF THESE FEE INCREASES THAT IS PROPOSED, AND, IN FACT, THEY DO CONSTITUTE TAX INCREASES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE MOTION TO BRACKET. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE A LITTLE OLD BUSINESS FROM YESTERDAY. I AM OBVIOUSLY OPPOSED THE BRACKET MOTION AS WELL. I NEED TO TELL A COUPLE OF SENATORS THAT I WAS NOT HOODWINKED INTO TAKING THIS BILL. IN FACT, I DID IT EAGERLY, KNOWING THAT I'D BE IN FOR ROUGH TREATMENT FROM THE SENATORS IN DISTRICTS 11 AND 17. I KNEW THAT GOING INTO THE DEAL. BUT MY REAL REASON FOR FAVORING IT IS BECAUSE I LIKE USER FEES, AND IF WE DON'T...THOSE PEOPLE THAT USE THE PARK SYSTEM, IF THEY DON'T PAY FOR IT, THAT MONEY NEEDS TO COME FROM THE GENERAL FUND, AND I THINK THOSE PEOPLE THAT USE THE FACILITIES OUGHT TO BE THE ONES THAT PAY FOR IT. SECONDLY, I ACCEPT SENATOR BLOOMFIELD'S INVITATION TO LOOK AT SOME OF THE FACILITIES IN NORTHEAST NEBRASKA. NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I WILL BUY HIM LUNCH AT THE BEST RESTAURANT IN BLOOMFIELD, PERHAPS NEXT SATURDAY, IF HE'S AVAILABLE. WE HAVE SOME UNANSWERED ISSUES WITH REGARD TO MAINTENANCE. I SHOULD MENTION THAT. THERE'S A HANDOUT THAT GOES THROUGH THE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE. I THINK YOU'LL SEE THAT WE'VE GOT NEARLY \$16 MILLION IN DEFERRED MAINTENANCE ISSUES, REPAIRS, AND WE ONLY HAVE \$88,300,000 WITH THE MONEY CURRENTLY ALLOCATED, AND THIS FEE INCREASE WILL CERTAINLY HELP IN THAT REGARD. SHOULD ALSO RAISE AN ISSUE, OR RESPOND TO AN ISSUE, THAT OCCURRED YESTERDAY ABOUT ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL GROUND AND THEN HAVING NO IDEA HOW TO MAINTAIN IT. AND SO WITH THAT, I WILL GO TO THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING. AND SENATOR FRIESEN ASKED A QUESTION DURING THE HEARING TO

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REX FISHER: SO, DOES GAMES AND PARKS, WHEN THEY START A NEW PROGRAM, DO THEY LOOK AHEAD AND LOOK AT THE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS AND ADJUST FOR THAT? IS THAT PART OF THE DECISION WHEN YOU START A NEW PROGRAM OR START A NEW PARK PROJECT? THAT WAS HIS QUESTION. REX FISHER: YES, ABSOLUTELY, I CAN TELL YOU WITH THIS GROUP OF COMMISSIONERS, WHENEVER SOMEONE LEAVES US LAND OR WANTS TO LEAVE US LAND OR WHEN WE WANT TO EXPAND SOMEWHERE, THE FIRST QUESTION THAT COMES FROM THE COMMISSIONERS--AND USUALLY TWO OR THREE OF US--IS, HOW WILL WE MAINTAIN IT? WILL IT REQUIRE MORE BUDGET? WILL IT REQUIRE MORE PERSONNEL? AND IN MANY CASES, IT CAN BE DONE WITH THE PEOPLE THAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE, SO WE'RE SENSITIVE TO THAT IN TERMS OF MAKING SURE THAT WE'RE NOT TAKING MORE PROPERTY THAN WE CAN PROPERLY HANDLE AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO THAT. SO THAT'S PRETTY LENGTHY DISCUSSION EVERY TIME A NEW PIECE OF GROUND IS CONSIDERED TO BE ADDED TO THE GAME AND PARKS. SO THAT WAS THE ANSWER AND I THINK SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSES THAT ISSUE. A COUPLE OTHER ISSUES THAT WEREN'T FULLY RESOLVED, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD YESTERDAY ASKED US, HOW MANY ACRES DOES THE GAME AND PARKS CURRENTLY MANAGE? IN THE CURRENT STATE PARKS, OF WHICH THERE ARE 8, THERE'S 31,577 ACRES; HISTORICAL PARKS, AND THERE'S 9, 2,382 ACRES; RECREATION AREAS, 60, 34,801 ACRES; STATE RECREATION TRAILS, 2, 4,143 ACRES, AND THOSE TRAILS ADD UP TO 322 MILES FOR A TOTAL OF 72,923 ACRES. LASTLY, WE TALKED YESTERDAY ABOUT THE MONEY THAT GAME AND PARKS RECEIVED A COUPLE, THREE YEARS AGO, AND JUST TO REITERATE WHAT CHAIRMAN SCHILZ INDICATED, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, WE HAVE... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: ...\$15 MILLION FROM GENERAL FUND; THERE IS \$2.5 MILLION FOR ROADS REPAIR. ARBOR LODGE GOT \$150,000, SO THAT OCCURRED. AND AS YOU COMPARE THAT AGAINST THE LIST OF DEFERRED MAINTENANCE, I THINK YOU CAN SEE THAT A FEE INCREASE IS CERTAINLY WARRANTED. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR BAKER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M IN SUPPORT OF LB745. I THINK WE NEED TO GIVE GAME AND PARKS THE ABILITY TO INCREASE FEES AND

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REVENUES. AND AS WAS POINTED OUT, IT'S A USER FEE, NOT A TAX INCREASE. I WONDER IF SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD YIELD TO A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES, I WILL. [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: SENATOR, WITH YOU, ON THIS BILL, I TAKE IT, YOU KNOW, PART OF IT IS THAT YOU HAVE SOME FEELINGS ABOUT GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION, AND THE OTHER PART OF IT, YOU HAVE FEELINGS TOWARD MOUNTAIN LIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: TRUE. [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: YOU KNOW, WHEN A MOSQUITO LANDS ON MY ARM, I SWAT IT AND I KILL IT. YOU KNOW, IF A MOUSE WOULD HAPPEN TO GET LOOSE IN MY HOUSE, I WOULD TRAP IT AND KILL IT. I'VE SHOT DUCKS. I'VE SHOT PHEASANTS. NEVER HAD THE PATIENCE FOR DEER HUNTING OR ANY BIG-GAME HUNTING. MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE A PART OF THAT SAME ANIMAL KINGDOM AS THESE OTHER CREATURES. I JUST NEED TO HAVE YOU HELP ME UNDERSTAND. DO YOU THINK THERE IS A HIERARCHY WITHIN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM AS TO WHICH SPECIES SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND WHICH IT'S OKAY TO KILL? BY THE WAY, THANKS FOR THE MOUNTAIN LION CALENDAR. IT'S HANGING IN THE HALLWAY OF MY HOUSE, AND THEY'RE A BEAUTIFUL ANIMAL. BUT JUST HELP ME UNDERSTAND WHAT IS IT ABOUT MOUNTAIN LIONS IN YOUR MIND THAT SEPARATES IT FROM ALL THE OTHER THINGS THAT PEOPLE HUNT. I UNDERSTAND ABOUT ENDANGERED SPECIES. IF THAT'S IT, THAT'S ONE THING. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THERE ARE SO FEW OF THEM IN THIS STATE THAT TO ALLOW THEM TO BE HUNTED DOES NOT RELATE TO SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT OF THE POPULATION. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THESE ANIMALS, THEY REGULATE THEIR OWN POPULATION. AND WITH ONE AS SMALL AS THIS ONE, THERE SHOULD NOT BE ANY HUNTING. IF THERE WERE ANOTHER SPECIES WITH SO FEW INDIVIDUALS AND THEY ARE NATIVE TO THIS STATE AND THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION IMPOSED A HUNTING SEASON, I WOULD FIGHT AGAINST THAT ALSO. [LB745]

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SENATOR BAKER: OKAY, I GET THAT. SO IF THERE IS PLENTIFUL NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN ANOTHER STATE AND THEY HAVE HUNTING SEASONS, THAT WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM TO YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SAY IT AGAIN? [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: IN OTHER STATES, THERE ARE OTHER STATES THAT HAVE HUNTING SEASONS FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS. IF THEY HAVE A PLENTIFUL POPULATION, WOULD THAT BE OKAY WITH YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NO, I DON'T THINK THESE ANIMALS SHOULD BE HUNTED. AND IN CALIFORNIA THEY HAVE FAR MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS THAN IN THIS STATE, AND THEY CANNOT BE HUNTED. AND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN CALIFORNIA WALK THE TRAILS WHERE MOUNTAIN LIONS LIVE; THEY PICNIC IN THE AREAS WHERE MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE FOUND. THEY ARE TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND THERE IS SUCH A GREAT AMOUNT OF CONCERN FOR THEM THAT EVEN THOUGH--MIRACULOUSLY, EVEN THE SCIENTISTS DON'T UNDERSTAND IT--THERE ARE MULTILANE SUPERHIGHWAYS IN CALIFORNIA WHICH THESE ANIMALS SUCCESSFULLY CROSS WITHOUT BEING KILLED BY CARS. BUT BECAUSE OF THE ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE ANIMALS AND THE ROLE THEY PLAY IN THE ECOLOGY, THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT BUILDING A VERY EXPENSIVE OVERPASS FOR THESE ANIMALS TO UTILIZE. SO THESE ANIMALS IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE HELD A UNIQUE STATUS IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE LION HAS HELD IN AFRICA AND OTHER SPECIFIC ANIMALS, FOR WHATEVER REASON, ARE GIVEN A CONSIDERATION THAT WILL NOT APPLY TO ALL THE OTHERS. BUT SPECIFICALLY HERE, THERE ARE SO FEW THAT EVEN EXPERTS HAVE SAID THERE IS NO BASIS AND NO JUSTIFICATION FOR A HUNTING SEASON OF ANY KIND. AND IF YOU HAVE AN OPERATION LIKE GAME AND PARKS, SHOULD THERE BE A ROGUE ANIMAL,... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THEY SHOULD HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE TO TRANQUILIZE THAT ANIMAL AND RELOCATE IT WITHOUT EVEN GAME AND PARKS KILLING IT, AND THEY'VE DONE THAT BY CATCHING THESE ANIMALS, COLLARING THEM, AND RELEASING THEM. [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: SO YOU BELIEVE THAT MOUNTAIN LIONS SHOULD HAVE A PREFERRED-ANIMAL STATUS. [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES, BECAUSE ALSO IT'S AT THE TOP OF THE CHAIN. IT IS THE PARAMOUNT PREDATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR BAKER: WELL, THANK YOU. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BAKER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO SOME THINGS THAT SENATOR McCOLLISTER WAS ALLOWED TO DISCUSS ON THE FLOOR BY GAME AND PARKS. IF HE WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION AND CONTINUE THIS ROUGH RIDE HE KNEW HE WAS GOING TO HAVE, I WOULD HAVE A QUESTION OR TWO TO PUT TO HIM. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, SIR, I WILL. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, HAVE YOU READ ALL OF THIS BILL? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I HAVE. IT'S PRIMARILY A MODIFICATION OF EXISTING LANGUAGE, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT SOME OF THE CHANGES THAT YOU ARE OFFERING IN THE MANY AMENDMENTS THAT I KNOW ARE COMING WOULD ACTUALLY IMPROVE THE BILL. IF THIS BILL MOVES FROM GENERAL TO SELECT, I MAY VERY WELL TRY TO INCORPORATE A FEW OF THOSE CHANGES AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE BILL. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, THOSE WERE JUST OFFERED TO SHOW THAT I WOULD KNOW HOW TO WRITE A BILL LIKE THIS BETTER THAN THOSE WHO WROTE IT, BUT I HAVE NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO IMPROVE THE BILL. I WANTED A LARGE NUMBER OF AMENDMENTS TO TAKE TIME. BUT HERE'S WHAT I WANT TO GET TO. SINCE YOU'VE READ IT, TELL ME HOW FEES ARE DERIVED FROM THESE...WHAT DO YOU CALL THESE VEHICLES YOU RIDE IN THE SNOW? YOU SIT ON THEM AND THEY'RE NOT...WELL, SNOWMOBILES, IS THAT WHAT THEY'RE CALLED, SENATOR McCOLLISTER? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: "SNOWMOBILES" IS CORRECT. [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND DOES GAME AND PARKS DERIVE MONEY FROM SNOWMOBILES? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, THERE ARE 45 DIFFERENT FEE SCHEDULES. I'M NOT SURE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING RELATED TO SNOWMOBILES IN THE FEE INCREASE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF THERE IS, IT DOESN'T SAY JUST SNOWMOBILES THAT ARE USED IN THE PARKS, DOES IT? THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING YOU. OR YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I'M CONSIDERING MY ANSWER. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE JURISDICTION ON SNOWMOBILES THAT OPERATE OUTSIDE THE PARKS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING PERTAINING TO SNOWMOBILES, YOU BELIEVE IT APPLIES ONLY TO THOSE IN THE PARKS. COULD THE LEGISLATURE PLACE A FEE OR A TAX ON SNOWMOBILES IN THE SAME WAY THEY DO ON EVERY MOTOR VEHICLE? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, SIR, THEY COULD. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DO YOU KNOW WHETHER THAT WAS DONE WITH REFERENCE TO SNOWMOBILES? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T BELIEVE IT WAS, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT YOU DON'T KNOW FOR SURE, DO YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: LET'S SAY THAT THAT WOULD HAPPEN, OR TAKE ANY OTHER ITEM. WHAT DOES THE TERM "USER" IN THE EXPRESSION "USER FEE" REFER TO? [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT SIMPLY REFERS TO THAT PERSON THAT RECEIVES A GOOD OR SERVICE PAYS FOR THAT RATHER THAN APPLYING THE COST OF THAT GOOD OR SERVICE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THROUGH THE GENERAL FUND. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF ANY...EXCUSE ME. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: AND I FAVOR THAT APPROACH BECAUSE IT BETTER ALLOCATES RESOURCES AND HOPEFULLY KEEPS OUR TAXES LOW. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF ANYTHING WERE TO BE DERIVED FROM SNOWMOBILES IN GENERAL, THAT WOULD NOT BE A TRUE USER FEE, WOULD IT, BECAUSE IT WOULD PUT A COST ON THOSE WHO ARE NOT GOING TO MAKE USE OF THE PARKS? DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I'M NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO SOME KIND OF FEE FOR TRAILMOBILES, OR SNOWMOBILES BUT... [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: EVEN IF THEY DON'T USE THE PARKS? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T BELIEVE THEY CAN USE NEBRASKA PARKS FOR SNOWMOBILES. I CERTAINLY HAVEN'T SEEN OR EVIDENCED THAT MYSELF. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF ANY MONEY IS DERIVED FROM THEM, IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY USE THE PARK, IS THAT CORRECT, FROM WHAT YOU'VE JUST SAID? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT COULD WELL BE THAT THERE'S A DEPARTMENT OF ROADS OR SOME OTHER BODY THAT INCURS EXPENSE RELATED TO THAT SNOWMOBILE ACTIVITY. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND, WELL, LET'S SAY THAT THAT HAPPENS, BUT THE SOURCE OF THOSE FUNDS WOULD NOT BE PEOPLE WHO USE THE PARKS, ISN'T THAT TRUE? SO THAT WOULD NOT BE A TRUE USER FEE, WOULD IT? [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: AS I SAID, IF THERE'S SOME OTHER EXPENSE INCURRED BY SOME OTHER DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT, STATE GOVERNMENT, THAT WE COULD PROPERLY MATCH THE REVENUES WITH THE EXPENSE, THAT WOULD BE A GOOD THING TO DO. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHAT YOU'VE SAID TO ME IS THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ANSWER THE QUESTION, SO I WON'T PERSIST ON THAT BUT TO SHOW THAT YOU DON'T CONTROL THIS BILL. I'VE HEARD YOU TALK ON OTHER BILLS. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN SO RELUCTANT, SO CAREFUL, AND SO WILLING TO GIVE ONE ANSWER NOW THAT CONTRADICTS OR AT LEAST CONFLICTS WITH SOMETHING YOU SAID EARLIER. THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO ASK YOU, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO CONTINUE STANDING. I STAND ALL THE TIME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO IMPOSE THAT ON MY COLLEAGUES. WE'RE GOING TO SPEND PLENTY OF TIME ON THIS BILL, SO WHETHER IT'S SOMEBODY ELSE SPEAKING, SOMEBODY RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS, THE TIME DEFINITELY WILL BE TAKEN, AND I'M PREPARED TO STAY HERE... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME, EVEN IF THEY'RE ALLOWED TO GRAZE ON GAME AND PARKS LAND. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: TIME. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) RETURNING TO DISCUSSION ON THE MOTION, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GIVING YOU A HARD TIME ON THIS BILL. (LAUGHTER) I WONDER IF THE GOOD SENATOR McCOLLISTER WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I WILL, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

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SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR. AS I SAID, I DON'T INTEND TO GIVE YOU A HARD TIME ON THIS. I SAID YESTERDAY THAT, BEING AS IT'S MOSTLY USER FEES, I'M NOT AS OPPOSED TO IT AS I MIGHT BE WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO GET FEES PUT ON EVERYBODY'S LICENSE PLATES, WHETHER THEY EVER USED A PARK OR NOT. I DO HOPE THAT YOU COME UP THIS WEEKEND AND THAT WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO DOWN AND I CAN SHOW YOU THAT IRRIGATED LAND THAT IS NOW NOT WHAT IT SHOULD BE. BUT WHERE DID YOU GET THE IDEA I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU A ROUGH TIME? WAS THAT SOMETHING THAT WAS GIVEN TO YOU BEFORE WE EVEN ENTERED INTO THIS CONVERSATION? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDED YOU. I KNEW GOING IN THAT WE WOULD HAVE A COUPLE SENATORS THAT WOULD GIVE ME SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS, AND I THINK YOU'VE DONE THAT. AND IN GRATITUDE FOR THE KIND TREATMENT THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM YOU THIS LAST COUPLE DAYS, I WILL BUY YOU LUNCH IN BLOOMFIELD. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: NO, YOU WON'T BUY ME LUNCH IN BLOOMFIELD. WE WON'T BE WITHIN 50 MILES OF BLOOMFIELD. IT HAPPENS TO BE MY LAST NAME, NOT THE TOWN I'M FROM. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: RIGHT. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: BUT I SUPPOSE WE COULD DRIVE TO BLOOMFIELD. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WE'LL HAVE TO ESTABLISH A PROPER RENDEZVOUS POINT, WON'T WE? [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I'D RECOMMEND A PLACE IN THE LITTLE TOWN OF MARTINSBURG. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: FAIR ENOUGH. I'M SURE WE CAN GET IT SET UP. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I'M SURE WE CAN. I WISH YOU WOULD REPEAT THE NUMBERS THAT YOU GAVE US EARLY ON, AND POSSIBLY GIVE ME A COPY OF THEM, THAT SAID HOW MANY ACRES GAME AND PARKS HAS CONTROL OF. AND

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YOU GAVE NUMBERS YESTERDAY AS TO HOW MUCH THEY CONTRIBUTED IN THE FORM OF, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, PROPERTY TAX. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I CAN DO THAT, SENATOR. I CAN EITHER HAND YOU THE SHEET THAT I NOW HAVE IN MY POSSESSION, OR I CAN READ THE ACRES OFF AGAIN. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: EITHER ONE WOULD BE FINE. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: AND WITH REGARD TO THE PROPERTY TAXES, THE...IN LIEU OF TAX OR PROPERTY TAXES WAS \$951,000, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: NINE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS. WHAT WAS THE TOTAL ACRES? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: TOTAL ACRES WERE 72,923 ACRES FOR ALL FACILITIES. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: OKAY. I WOULD LIKE A COPY OF THOSE NUMBERS IF I CAN WHEN YOU'RE DONE. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: MY PLEASURE TO GIVE THEM TO YOU. THANK YOU, SIR. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: OKAY, THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED 2:00. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, LET'S PRETEND YOUR SEAT IS A HOT SEAT. YES, YOU STOOD RIGHT UP. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR McCOLLISTER A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I WILL. [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU READ FROM A TRANSCRIPT AND A PERSON REPRESENTING GAME AND PARKS WAS BEING QUESTIONED. WHAT WAS THE POSITION OF THAT PERSON FROM GAME AND PARKS? WHAT POSITION DID HE HOLD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: HE WAS A COMMISSIONER OF GAME AND PARKS AND THE INDIVIDUAL'S NAME WAS REX FISHER. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THE QUESTION ASKED TO HIM WAS WHETHER OR NOT BEFORE THEY TAKE THIS PROPERTY, AND I'M COMPRESSING IT, THEY CHECK IT OUT TO MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO TAKE CARE OF IT. IN GENERAL, IS THAT TRUE? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THAT IS TRUE. IT'S A WISE STEWARDSHIP TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU CAN PROPERLY MAINTAIN SOMETHING BEFORE YOU ACCEPT TITLE TO THE PROPERTY. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF THAT WERE NOT TRUE, LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY: WHAT OTHER ANSWER WOULD YOU EXPECT HIM TO GIVE TO A QUESTION LIKE THAT WHEN THE CHALLENGE HAD BEEN MADE? WOULD YOU EXPECT HIM TO GIVE ANY OTHER ANSWER THAN, YES, THEY CAN DO THIS? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT SHOWED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF DILIGENCE AND... [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HERE'S WHAT I'M GETTING AT. YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY FACTS PRESENTED BY HIM, OR EVIDENCE, THAT WHAT HIS ANSWER SAID ACCORDED WITH REALITY, DID YOU? YOU JUST WENT BY WHAT HE SAID, DIDN'T YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, I KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL, I KNOW HIM TO BE A TRUTHFUL PERSON, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO NOT TRUST THE ANSWER. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING YOU. I'M NOT ASKING YOU HOW YOU FEEL. YOU WERE FUNCTIONING AS A MEMBER OF A COMMITTEE.

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WHAT EVIDENCE DID HE PRESENT IN RESPONSE TO THAT QUESTION THAT THE COMMITTEE COULD RELY ON RATHER THAN YOUR SAYING HE'S A GOOD GUY? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, HE IS THAT, BUT HE'S ALSO A GOOD BUSINESSMAN, AND I THINK MOST OF US KNOW HIS REPUTATION IN OMAHA AND... [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: NO, NO, NO, HERE'S THE QUESTION I'M ASKING YOU. WHAT EVIDENCE DID HE PRESENT TO SUBSTANTIATE HIS ANSWER? [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATORS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR CHAMBERS ASKED ME WHETHER I WAS A SIMPLE...A TOOL OF THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION. I ASSURE YOU THAT I AM NOT. I THINK I'VE SHOWN SOME EVIDENCE IN THIS BODY THAT I'M CAPABLE OF INDEPENDENT THINKING. WHO...WHAT BODIES OR WHAT STAKEHOLDERS WERE INVOLVED IN SOME OF MY DECISIONS WITH REGARD TO THIS BILL? WELL, CERTAINLY PARK USERS. WE LISTEN TO THOSE FOLKS IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE. AND AS YOU GO THROUGH THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT YOU'LL SEE THAT HUNTERS AND FISHER PEOPLE TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THIS BILL. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT GAME AND PARKS PROVIDES A GOOD SERVICE AND DOES GENERALLY A PRETTY GOOD JOB. BUT I ALSO REPRESENT GAME AND PARKS, AND I HAVE NO INDICATION, NO SUGGESTION AT ALL, THAT GAME AND PARKS HAS NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED THE MOUNTAIN LION POPULATION. WE HAVE HAD JUST ONE HUNTING SEASON; WHETHER OR NOT WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER IS UNCERTAIN. THEY'RE CURRENTLY DOING A STUDY ON MOUNTAIN LIONS, AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE CONCLUSION OF THAT STUDY IS. SO I THINK THEY'VE ACTED PROPERLY AND I SEE NO REASON THAT THIS BODY SHOULD TAKE THAT AUTHORITY AWAY FROM GAME AND PARKS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

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SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, ON OTHER ISSUES SENATOR McCOLLISTER HAS SHOWN INDEPENDENCE. IN THAT EXCHANGE HE AND I HAD, HE ADMITTED THAT HE'S GOT TO TAKE CONSULTATION WITH THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION PEOPLE BEFORE HE ACTS ON AN ISSUE, AND THAT HE WILL TAKE WHAT THEY SAY INTO CONSIDERATION, AND IT WILL LIKELY DETERMINE HIS DECISION ON IT. AND FOR HIM TO GIVE MERELY A STATEMENT THAT ANOTHER PERSON MADE AND SAY, WELL, THE REST OF US SHOULD BELIEVE HIM BECAUSE SENATOR McCOLLISTER KNOWS HIM AND SAYS HE BELIEVES HIM, WE'RE NOT BASING LEGISLATION ON WHAT SOMEBODY SAYS AND HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THEM. AND I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE MYSELF CLEAR TO SENATOR McCOLLISTER, BUT I DON'T WANT HIM TO LOSE HIS CREDIBILITY IN THIS BODY AS AN INDEPENDENT THINKER, WHICH HE HAS UP TO THIS POINT. AESOP WAS A SLAVE. HE WAS IN A SLAVE MARKET AND A GREEK CAME ALONG AND AESOP WAS A MISSHAPEN PERSON PHYSICALLY, BUT HE HAD A REPUTATION FOR WISDOM. SO THIS MAN POSED A QUESTION TO AESOP. HE SAID, IF I PURCHASE YOU, WILL YOU RUN AWAY? AESOP SAID, IF THERE WERE A BIRD IN A CAGE AND SOMEBODY ASKED THAT BIRD, IF YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE, WOULD YOU ESCAPE? THAT SHOWED THIS MAN THE THOUGHTFULNESS OF AESOP, AND IT ALSO INDICATED THE FOOLISHNESS OF POSING A QUESTION LIKE THAT TO A MAN WHOSE FREEDOM HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM. THE QUESTIONS THAT I POSED TO SENATOR McCOLLISTER ELICITED ANSWERS WHICH, FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN IN THIS LEGISLATURE A LONG TIME, WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HE IS NOT FREE TO ACT ON THIS BILL IN THE WAY THAT HE MIGHT CHOOSE WERE HE NOT SO MUCH UNDER THE DOMINANCE OF GAME AND PARKS. THAT'S OBVIOUS. IF I WERE HANDLING A BILL, I COULD EVALUATE WHATEVER AMENDMENT WAS PRESENTED AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO ASK PEOPLE. IF I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS A GOOD AMENDMENT, OTHER PEOPLE TELLING ME IT'S GOOD WOULD NOT MAKE ME SAY, OKAY, IT'S A GOOD AMENDMENT BECAUSE YOU SAY SO. I HAVE A BRAIN AND A MIND. AND I KNOW SENATOR McCOLLISTER IS FED INFORMATION, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S ALWAYS ACCURATE. HE TALKED ABOUT THE TESTIFIERS. YOU KNOW THE ONES WHO TESTIFIED? HE MENTIONED HUNTERS, TRAPPERS, AND THOSE WHO FISH, THAT GROUP. THEY DO GET BENEFITS FROM GAME AND PARKS. SOME OF THOSE WHO MIGHT WANT TO HUNT MOUNTAIN LIONS WOULD SUPPORT THIS. YOU KNOW WHY THE PUBLIC WOULDN'T COME TO A BILL LIKE THIS? THIS IS NOT EVEN A BILL THAT'S ON THE RADAR SCREEN OF THE PUBLIC. AND EVERY TIME A SENATOR GETS UP HERE AND SAYS SOMETHING

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LIKE THAT, I HAVE A KNEE-JERK REACTION OF CONTEMPT WHEN I HEAR THAT SENATOR McCOLLISTER OUGHT TO KNOW EVEN WITHOUT BEING IN THIS LEGISLATURE THAT A BILL TO RAISE FEES IN GAME AND PARKS IS NOT GOING TO CAUSE PEOPLE TO TAKE TIME FROM WHATEVER THEY'RE DOING TO COME HERE AND TESTIFY ON IT IN FRONT OF A COMMITTEE THAT THEY KNOW SUPPORTS GAME AND PARKS IN EVERY KIND OF WAY. EVERY BILL THAT COMES BEFORE THAT COMMITTEE IS LIKE A DOG-AND-PONY SHOW IF GAME AND PARKS WANTS IT. AND WHEN WE GET ON THIS, THIS AFTERNOON, I'M GOING TO READ SOME FIGURES TO SENATOR McCOLLISTER FROM A REPORT PUT OUT BY GAME AND PARKS. I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM ONE NOW IF HE WILL RESPOND. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I WILL. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, IN 2014, LET'S SAY, HOW MUCH MONEY DID GAME AND PARKS SPEND ON PUBLICITY, ADVERTISING, AND SO FORTH? YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT OFFHAND, WOULD YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T, ACTUALLY. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: DO YOU THINK IT WOULD GO INTO THE MILLIONS? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: REPEAT THE QUESTION. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OH, YOU'RE NOT EVEN LISTENING TO THE QUESTION. OKAY, THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T ANSWER IT. I WON'T ASK YOU ANY MORE QUESTIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY DISTRACTED, BUT YOU KNEW WHAT THE QUESTION WAS. I ASKED YOU, DID YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH THEY SPEND ON ADVERTISEMENT, PUBLICATIONS, AND THAT KIND OF THING, AND THEN ASKED YOU... YOU SAID YOU DIDN'T KNOW OFFHAND. I ASKED, DID YOU THINK IT WOULD GO INTO THE MILLIONS? DO YOU THINK IT WOULD FOR ONE YEAR? [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I THINK IT VERY WELL COULD. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: FOR ADVERTISING? IF A STATE AGENCY SPENT MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN ADVERTISING, WOULD THAT BE ACCEPTED? IF HHS DID IT AND THAT WAS A PART OF WHAT THEY WERE SPENDING, DO YOU THINK THE LEGISLATURE WOULD AGREE THAT THAT'S A GOOD EXPENDITURE OF THE MONEY? THIS IS SPECULATION AND THEORIZING. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I THINK IT WOULD BE. WE'VE GOT A BIG INVESTMENT IN OUR PARKS AND, FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE AND THOSE PEOPLE OUTSIDE NEBRASKA, NEED TO HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THAT INFORMATION SO THEY CAN COME TO NEBRASKA AND SPEND THEIR DOLLARS. AND I THINK THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT COMES INTO NEBRASKA AS A RESULT OF THE PARK SYSTEM IS ABOUT \$2.4 BILLION, SO. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: TIME. TIME, SENATORS. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE SAT ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE FOR THE FOUR YEARS, AND I'VE HEARD THIS DISCUSSION GOING ON. AND I REMEMBER EARLY ON WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT A DIFFERENT WAY OF FUNDING GAME AND PARKS, AND THAT WAS BY EVERYONE--THEIR LICENSE PLATE WOULD INDICATE THAT THEY ARE LICENSED TO GO TO A PARK--AND FELT MAYBE THAT WAS A CLEANER WAY AND EVERYBODY COULD PARTICIPATE. THAT WAS DEFEATED BECAUSE IT WAS PROBABLY UNFAIR TO THOSE THAT HAD LOWER INCOMES AND IT RAISED THE FEES FOR REGISTRATION, WHICH WE WERE ALREADY PRETTY HIGH COMPARED TO OTHER STATES. THEN WE HAD SOME OTHER LEGISLATION THAT MOVED FORWARD, AND EVERY TIME IT SEEMS LIKE WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO BE DERAILED ON THIS. I DON'T REMEMBER ALL THE DATA FROM THE PAST YEARS, BUT I DO REMEMBER THE DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FIRST HUNTING SEASON. I WILL AGREE THAT PROBABLY IT WAS NOT HANDLED PROPERLY, BUT I DO BELIEVE THEIR MISSION AS GAME AND PARKS IS TO MANAGE THE PARKS. THE PARKS ARE DETERIORATING, SOME OF THEM ARE, THEY'VE GOT DEFERRED NEEDS, AND MANAGING GAME. INCLUDED IN THAT WOULD BE MOST OF OUR ANIMALS THAT WE HUNT, AND I DO BELIEVE SOMEBODY HAS TO MANAGE THOSE ANIMALS, THAT GAME, SO FROM THAT STANDPOINT I BELIEVE THEY ARE

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MANAGING IT IN A PROPER WAY. AS STATED BEFORE, WE DON'T HAVE A SEASON YET. I DON'T KNOW IF WE'LL HAVE ONE. EVERYBODY'S PRETTY MUCH AGREED THERE'S PROBABLY MORE MOUNTAIN LIONS OUT THERE THAN THEY'VE BEEN ABLE TO TAG, AND I HAVE TALKED TO PEOPLE THAT HAVE SEEN PROBABLY CLOSE TO THE NUMBER THEY HAVE TAGGED, THEY'VE SEEN THEM OVER A PERIOD OF A COUPLE DAYS AS THEY'VE TRAVELED THROUGH. SO I SUPPORT LB745 AND I WILL BE VOTING AGAINST THE BRACKET BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I NEED TO CORRECT THE RECORD WITH REGARD TO SNOWMOBILE FEES. ACTUALLY, IN CHAPTER 60 OF MOTOR VEHICLES, THERE IS SOME REGULATION WITH SNOWMOBILES AND, WHATEVER THE CHARGE IS, GAME AND PARKS GETS 75 PERCENT OF THE REVENUE OF THE REGISTRATION FEES, AND 25 PERCENT OF THE REGISTRATION FEES GO INTO THE GENERAL FUND, THEN GAME AND PARKS USES THE MONEY FROM THESE FUNDS TO MAINTAIN SNOWMOBILE TRAILS. SO I DO STAND CORRECTED, AND I THANK SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR THAT INFORMATION. I'D ALSO LIKE TO RESPOND TO SENATOR JOHNSON'S COMMENTS JUST A MOMENT AGO. THE NEBRASKA FEE SCHEDULE IS AMONG SOME OF THE LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY. OUR \$5 ENTRY FEE CURRENTLY RANKS AT THE BOTTOM QUARTILE OF ALL FEES OR OF ALL STATES THAT CHARGE FEES. AND, YOU KNOW, WE CHARGE JUST \$25 CURRENTLY TO GET IN A PARK ALL YEAR LONG. AND THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE YOU HAVE IN YOUR AUTOMOBILE MAKES NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL, SO IT'S THE BEST BARGAIN IN THE STATE, I THINK. SO WITH THAT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO BRACKET. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND, MR. PRESIDENT, JUST SO PEOPLE WILL KNOW, I HAVE A RECONSIDERATION MOTION PREPARED BECAUSE I'M JUST GOING TAKE THE TIME. AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER IS GOING TO FIND OUT, FROM THE KIND OF QUESTIONING I'D GIVE AND ANSWERS HE OFFERS, SOMEBODY'S GOING TO BE SCURRYING TO GIVE HIM INFORMATION TO CORRECT HIS ERRONEOUS ANSWERS. NOTICE I SAID "ERRONEOUS," NOT INTENTIONALLY MISLEADING. HE IS TRYING TO USE LOGIC AND GIVE ANSWERS THAT A PRUDENT

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PERSON WOULD GIVE, BUT THAT'S NOT HOW GAME AND PARKS OPERATES. SENATOR SCHILZ IS HERE. SINCE I'M CLOSING, I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM A QUESTION OR TWO. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SCHILZ, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR SCHILZ, MINE IS THE ONLY BILL THAT WAS KILLED TWICE IN THE SAME CALENDAR YEAR, ISN'T IT? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: (LAUGH) IN THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, YES. I CAN'T SAY FOR ANY OTHERS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ALL RIGHT, SO IT'S VERY UNIQUE IN EVERY RESPECT. SENATOR, YOU YESTERDAY WERE TALKING ABOUT GAME AND PARKS AND THEIR MISSION, AND YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT LEAVING THESE KIND OF DECISIONS TO THE EXPERTS. I'M PARAPHRASING AND YOU CAN CORRECT MY...WHATEVER I SAY. IS THAT MORE OR LESS WHAT YOU SAID? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YEAH, PRETTY MUCH. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. AND DO THOSE EXPERTS HAVE, IN YOUR OPINION, AND I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE WITH YOU, HAVE SCIENTIFIC TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE THAT EQUIPS THEM TO CARRY OUT THESE FUNCTIONS THAT THEY'RE DOING? AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT BOARD MEMBERS. I MEAN THE EMPLOYEES OF GAME AND PARKS. [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: THE BIOLOGISTS? [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES, I BELIEVE THEY DO. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. AND I BELIEVE YOU SAID WE SHOULD TRUST THEM TO DO THEIR JOB. IS THAT TRUE? [LB745]

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SENATOR SCHILZ: I THINK THAT WHAT I...YES, BASICALLY. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. AND DO YOU TRUST THEM? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I TRUST THEM BECAUSE, YES, AS THE LEGISLATURE, WE HAVE SET THEM UP TO HANDLE AND MANAGE THESE SORTS OF THINGS, AND AS A STATE THAT'S THE AGENCY THAT WE, QUOTE UNQUOTE, TRUST TO GO OUT AND DO THIS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WHEN IT COMES TO A SCIENTIFIC ISSUE RELATED TO WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, DO YOU THINK YOUR OPINION IS MORE VALID THAN A CONCLUSION REACHED BY THE SCIENTISTS CONNECTED WITH GAME AND PARKS IF THEIR CONCLUSION DISAGREES WITH YOUR OPINION? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: IT DEPENDS ON WHAT THAT...WHAT THE SUBJECT MATTER IS. IF IT'S ABOUT WILDLIFE, I WOULD DEFER TO THEM. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. YOU DID NOT ARGUE AGAINST THE FIGURE THAT I GAVE THAT GAME AND PARKS HAD GIVEN IN TERMS OF THE NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE, AND THAT NUMBER WAS 22. YOU DID NOT CHALLENGE THAT NUMBER ITSELF, DID YOU? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I DIDN'T CHALLENGE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE...THERE HAVE BEEN 22 INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED, YES. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT YOU CHALLENGED GAME AND PARKS' CONCLUSION THAT THERE WERE 22 ANIMALS, 22 MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE, DIDN'T YOU? AND THAT'S THE NUMBER THEY GAVE. [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: NO, I THINK... [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT YOU... [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: EXCUSE ME, SENATOR. I THINK THAT THAT'S KIND OF BEEN THROWN AROUND IN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT WAYS. I THINK...I DON'T KNOW AS IF THEY'VE SAID THAT THE 22 ANIMALS WERE EVER THE COMPLETE NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN THE STATE. AND I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT IT AND YOU LOOK AT

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THE LIONS THAT THEY HAVE FOUND IN OMAHA AND STUFF LIKE THAT, I DON'T KNOW IF THE TESTS WERE DONE, BUT I WILL FIND OUT TO SEE IF ANY OF THOSE WERE SOME OF THE 22 THAT WERE IN THE STATE. AND IF THEY'RE NOT, THEN THAT WOULD PROVE THAT, YES, THE NUMBERS WERE OFF, BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE THEY CLAIM THERE WERE ONLY 22. IT'S BECAUSE THAT THEY CLAIM THAT THEY COULD ONLY IDENTIFY 22. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: HOW ELSE WOULD YOU DETERMINE THAT? AND YOU'RE NOT A SCIENTIST. YOU WANT THEM TO SPECULATE AND GUESS LIKE YOU WOULD BASED ON WHAT SOMEBODY TOLD YOU THEY SAW? THAT'S ALL I'LL ASK YOU, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO ARGUE WITH YOU. THANK YOU, SENATOR. BUT I'M GOING TO DISCUSS WHAT HE SAID. IF THE CONCLUSION AGREED WITH HIM, HE ACCEPTS IT. NOW HE'S GOING TO GO BY ANECDOTAL STUFF AND SAY, WELL, THESE PEOPLE SAY THEY SAW... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THESE LIONS OVER A PERIOD OF DAYS. ANYBODY WHO HAS READ ANYTHING ABOUT THESE ANIMALS KNOWS HOW MUCH THEY TRAVEL. AND EVERY PLACE THAT THEY ARE FOUND, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE SEEN THE SAME ANIMAL NUMEROUS TIMES. AND THERE HAS BEEN INFORMATION BY DNA WHICH SHOWS HOW VAST AN AREA THESE ANIMALS COVER. SO, SENATOR, WITHOUT...SENATOR SCHILZ, WITHOUT REALIZING WHAT HE WAS SAYING, DISAGREES WITH GAME AND PARKS, JUST AS I DISAGREE WITH THEM, BUT BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING HE WANTS, HIS DISAGREEMENT IS ALL RIGHT. MINE IS MORE BASED ON EVIDENCE AND REASON THAN WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT. I HAVE NOT STUDIED MOUNTAIN LIONS BUT I'VE READ REPORTS AND STUDIES WRITTEN BY PEOPLE WHO DO. I'M SURE THERE ARE THINGS SENATOR RIEPE SAYS ARE TRUE IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION THAT HE HAS NOT PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED, BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE TRAINED IN THAT AREA WHO DO STUDIES, WHO PRODUCE REPORTS, AND THE FIELD ITSELF GIVES INFORMATION THAT PEOPLE CAN RELY ON... [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WHO DON'T HAVE THAT PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE. MR. PRESIDENT, I'M GOING TO ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE. [LB745]

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SENATOR COASH: MR. CLERK, THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: 21 AYES, 0 NAYS, TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS MURANTE, HANSEN, KEN HAAR, MORFELD, AND STINNER, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATORS MORFELD AND MURANTE, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. SENATOR MORFELD, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR MURANTE, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL MEMBERS ARE ACCOUNTED FOR. MEMBERS, THE MOTION BEFORE YOU IS TO BRACKET LB745. THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE ROLL. [LB745]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 944.) 1 AYE, 32 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION IS NOT ADOPTED. RAISE THE CALL. MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO RECONSIDER THAT VOTE. [LB745]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I HANDED OUT AN ARTICLE WHICH STATED SOME FACTS. I TESTIFIED WHEN THIS BILL CAME UP. I ORDINARILY DON'T TESTIFY ON GAME AND PARKS BILLS, BUT THIS HAD A PARTICULAR DRAWING POWER FOR ME. I WANTED TO EXPLAIN TO THOSE MEMBERS WHAT I INTENDED TO DO AND I POINTED OUT THAT WHEN THEY ADVANCED SENATOR McCOLLISTER'S BILL, AND

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THEY HADN'T DONE IT YET, IT WOULD PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR ME TO DO OR ATTEMPT TO DO WHAT I HAVE IN MIND, BUT IF YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU'LL SEE AT THE BOTTOM IT SAYS NOT THE ONLY VEHICLE. SO I'M PAYING ATTENTION TO HOW PEOPLE ARE VOTING, AND I WILL FIND OTHER BILLS TO DO THE SAME THING ON. AND I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO BE SURPRISED AS WE RUN OUT OF TIME WHEN I TAKE A LOT OF TIME. I DON'T WANT ANYBODY TO BE SURPRISED WHEN I TAKE UP ALL THAT TIME. YOU ARE UNDER THE DOMINANCE OF GAME AND PARKS RIGHT NOW, AND YOU'RE FREE TO BE THAT WAY IF YOU WANT TO. AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER HAS LEARNED SOMETHING ABOUT THE WAY I ASK QUESTIONS AND HE HAS SOMEBODY DOING RESEARCH FOR HIM. AND THE FEE PLACED ON SNOWMOBILES DOES IMPACT ON THE MONEY THAT GAME AND PARKS GETS, AND THEY KNEW THEY COULD NEVER GET THAT BY COMING THROUGH THIS LEGISLATURE BECAUSE I WOULD STOP IT. SO PEOPLE WHO WILL NEVER USE GAME AND PARKS AND WHAT THEY DO ARE BY INDIRECTION BEING MADE TO PAY, AND YOU ALL COME IN HERE IN YOUR HYPOCRITICAL WAYS TALKING ABOUT CUTTING TAXES. YOU MEAN FOR FARMERS AND THOSE WHO GET BIG TAX CUTS ALREADY BY VIRTUE OF THE FEDERAL SUBSIDIES THEY GET FROM THE GOVERNMENT, SUBSIDIES FUNDED BY ALL OF US WHO PAY TAXES. I'M USING THE ARGUMENTS THAT I HEAR ON THIS FLOOR NOW. SO WHEN THEY SAY USER FEE HERE, THAT IS A SMOKE SCREEN. YOU ARE RAISING TAXES ON PEOPLE. IT'S NOT A USER FEE IF YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR SOMETHING THAT YOU'RE NOT USING. YOU ALL KNOW THAT, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY LIKE YOU DON'T, AND THAT'S WHY I GET UPSET IN HERE. I LISTEN TO YOU ALL. YOU DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO EACH OTHER. SOMETIMES YOU DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO YOURSELVES. BUT I PAY ATTENTION BECAUSE I KNOW A DAY IS COMING WHEN ALL OF THAT HIGH-FALUTIN, HIGH-SOUNDING TALK IS GOING TO COME BACK AND BITE YOU. YOU'LL SAY, WELL, MOTOR VEHICLES DEPARTMENT DOES THIS. SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THAT FEE ON THESE SNOWMOBILES GOES TO GAME AND PARKS. AND YOU THINK THAT WHEN JESSE JAMES AND FRANK JAMES GET TOGETHER AND A DEAL IS STRUCK WHERE IT JUST HAPPENS THAT WHAT FRANK DOES BENEFITS JESSE, THAT THEY DIDN'T GET TOGETHER AND LAY THIS OUT IN FRONT? YOU THINK THESE THINGS JUST HAPPEN BY COINCIDENCE? SENATOR BAKER DOES. ALL OF YOU DO EXCEPT ME. AND YOU ALL UNDERSTAND MORE ABOUT TAXATION THAN I DO BECAUSE YOU YAMMER AND YAKETY-YAK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME ON THE FLOOR AND OFF THE FLOOR, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO FACE THE TRUTH AND ADMIT IT IF IT WOULD CAUSE YOU TO VOTE IN A WAY THAT THOSE WHO CONTROL YOU DON'T WANT YOU TO VOTE. NOBODY CONTROLS ME, NOT EVEN THE PEOPLE IN THIS LEGISLATURE, AND YOU ALSO FOUND OUT YOU DON'T CONTROL SENATOR McCOY. WHEN HE HAS REASONS NOT TO BE HERE, HE'S NOT GOING TO BE HERE, AND IT'S HIS PREROGATIVE. A

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SENATOR DOESN'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ANYBODY ON THIS FLOOR. NO SENATOR HAS TO ANSWER TO ANYBODY ON THIS FLOOR. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO ME, AND BY THE SAME TOKEN I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER TO YOU AND I SHALL NOT ANSWER TO YOU. AND I'M GOING TO TAKE ALL THE TIME UNDER THE RULES THAT I CAN TAKE. NOW, UP TILL NOW, I HAVEN'T GONE AFTER OTHER PEOPLE'S BILLS. HAVE I GOT BILLS OUT THERE STILL PENDING? YES, I DO. I'M GOING TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO ONE THAT YOU CAN FOCUS ON. IT WOULD CREATE AN OFFICIAL VERSION OF THE NEBRASKA CONSTITUTION, AND IT WOULD REQUIRE THAT A COPY OF THAT IS MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. KILL IT! YOU THINK IT HURTS ME BECAUSE NEBRASKA DOES NOT HAVE AN OFFICIAL VERSION OF ITS CONSTITUTION? YOU DON'T HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN WHAT YOU DO WOULD HURT ME OR NOT HURT ME? I BRING BILLS THAT WOULD BENEFIT THE STATE AND UPRaise ITS REPUTATION. IT WOULD HELP THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. BUT YOU NEED A TARGET WITH MY NAME ON IT. THAT'S ONE OF THEM. KILL IT. I'VE GOT ANOTHER ISSUE. IT HAS TO DO WITH OPENING UP THE GRAND JURY PROCESS. I WANT TO SEE THAT DONE. KILL IT! AND I'LL BE BACK NEXT YEAR, SHOULD I BE REELECTED, AND WE'LL SEE WHO CAN PLAY CHICKEN THE LONGEST AND THE BEST. YOU DON'T GIVE ME ANYTHING; YOU CAN'T TAKE ANYTHING FROM ME. LOOK AROUND THIS CHAMBER. I HAVE TOLD YOU ALL HOW RECLUSIVE, HOW SOLITARY MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE, HOW THEY DON'T WANT TO BE AROUND HUMAN BEINGS, THAT THERE'S A SCARCITY OF THEM IN THIS STATE. WELL, LOOK AROUND THIS FLOOR. MOUNTAIN LIONS ARE SCARCE THAN THE FEW SENATORS ARE WHO ARE ON THIS FLOOR RIGHT NOW IN THIS CHAMBER. YOU ALL GOING TO CRITICIZE SENATOR McCOY, AND LOOK WHAT YOU ALL ARE DOING. LOOK AT ALL THESE EMPTY CHAIRS AROUND HERE. LOOK AT THEM! SO DON'T RAISE THOSE KIND OF ISSUES WHEN THERE'S SOMEBODY YOU DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE FOR WHEN YOU ARE DOING EXACTLY THE SAME THING AND YOU DON'T EXPECT ANYBODY TO HOLD UP A MIRROR AND LET YOUR OWN IMAGE BE REFLECTED IN IT. BUT I'LL DO IT. YOU THINK IF YOU KILL OFF EVERY MOUNTAIN LION IN THIS STATE YOU'RE GOING TO HURT ME? NO. THAT'S THE NATURE OF PEOPLE IN THIS STATE. YOU GO AFTER THE WRONG TARGET. IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME, YOU HAVE TO KILL ME, NOT SOMEBODY ELSE, NOT SOME IDEA, AND THAT'S WHY I PUT MY NAME TO EVERYTHING I BELIEVE IN. I DON'T WANT ANY INNOCENT PERSON HURT BECAUSE SOMEBODY DOESN'T LIKE ME. THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN. WHEN I SEE THESE CREATURES, WHOM THE GOD YOU ALL PRETEND TO WORSHIP, MISUSED IN THE WAY THEY ARE, THEN IF EVERYTHING I DO IS OF THE DEVIL, THE DEVIL LEADS ME TO SAY THAT THOSE CREATURES WHICH ARE A PART OF THIS EXISTENTIAL UNIVERSE HAVE A RIGHT TO LIVE. AND LET ME GIVE SENATOR SCHILZ WHAT HE WANTS. LET'S SAY THAT GAME

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AND PARKS WAS WRONG 50 PERCENT ON THEIR ESTIMATE: 50 PERCENT OF 22 WOULD BE 11. LET'S SAY THERE ARE 50 PERCENT MORE: THAT'S 33 ANIMALS. ANY EXPERT POINTS OUT THAT'S TOO SMALL A POPULATION. LET'S MAKE THEM 100 PERCENT WRONG AND SAY THERE ARE 44 ANIMALS. YOU STILL WIND UP AT THE SAME POINT. THAT'S WHAT I...HE'S HERE NOW. I WANT HIM TO KNOW THAT I CALLED HIS NAME AND MENTIONED IT. I'M GOING TO SAY THAT GAME AND PARKS, WHOM YOU TRUST, WHO YOU SAY HAVE EMPLOYEES WHO DO THINGS IN A SCIENTIFIC WAY, THEY WERE 100 PERCENT WRONG ON THEIR ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE. THEY SAID 22. ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF 22 IS 22. TWENTY-TWO PLUS 22 EQUALS 44. IF YOU HAVE A 44 NUMBER AS THE POPULATION OF MOUNTAIN LIONS IN THIS STATE, THAT IS NOT A SUSTAINABLE NUMBER. SENATOR SCHILZ HASN'T READ ANYTHING ABOUT THESE ANIMALS. I CAN TELL FROM THE THINGS HE SAYS. HE WOULDN'T ACCEPT THE NONSENSE AND B.S. THAT HE HAS BEEN FED AND THAT HE REGURGITATES ON THIS FLOOR ABOUT THIS ISSUE. YOU DON'T NEED HUNTERS TO MANAGE THESE FEW ANIMALS. THAT'S THE WORK THAT GAME AND PARKS DOES IF THEY ARE TRUE MANAGERS OF THE WILDLIFE. SENATOR BAKER EVEN KNOWS THAT. IF HE'S GOT A MOUSE IN HIS HOUSE, HE SETS A TRAP TO CATCH THE MOUSE. HE DOESN'T GO OVER TO HIS NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE AND SET TRAPS AND SAY, I GOT TO KILL EVERY MOUSE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BECAUSE I HAD ONE IN MY HOUSE. HE MANAGES THE MICE IN HIS HOUSE. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: GAME AND PARKS DOESN'T NEED TO SEND THESE BARBARIANS OUT HERE HUNTING THESE ANIMALS DOWN WITH DOGS TO DO THE MANAGING. WHEN GAME AND PARKS IS CALLED ON A MOUNTAIN LION, THEY DON'T GO THERE WITH DOGS. AND THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TRAP THESE ANIMALS WITHOUT HURTING THEM AND YOU KNOW HOW THEY DO IT? THEY PUT ROAD KILL IN A TRAP IN A CAGE AND WHEN THE MOUNTAIN LION GOES IN, THE MOUNTAIN LION IS CAUGHT. THEY TRANQUILIZE THE ANIMAL. THEY TAKE IT WHERE THEY WANT TO TAKE IT. THEY PUT A COLLAR ON IT AND MARK IT, A GPS COLLAR, THEN THEY LET THEM GO. THAT'S HOW YOU MANAGE THEM. BUT WHAT DO THESE PEOPLE THINK? KILL IT. THAT'S HOW YOU MANAGE IT: KILL IT. WELL, I'M GOING TO DO SOME KILLING OF TIME IN THIS LEGISLATURE AND I'M GOING TO TAKE THE SAME ATTITUDE TOWARD TIME THAT THIS BODY TAKES TOWARD THESE ANIMALS. AND YOU CAN STOP ME, BECAUSE THERE ARE 48 OF YOU AND ONE OF ME. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, CHAMBERS, AND McCOLLISTER. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GOING TO ASK A SMALL NUMBER OF SENATORS TO YIELD TO A COUPLE QUESTIONS AS WE GO ALONG. SENATOR HUGHES, WOULD YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION, PLEASE? [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR HUGHES, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR HUGHES: OF COURSE. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. CAN YOU TELL ME ROUGHLY WHAT YOU PAY PER ACRE IN PROPERTY TAX? [LB745]

SENATOR HUGHES: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, I CAN TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT I PAY IN PROPERTY TAX (LAUGHTER). I LOOKED IT UP ON-LINE. I HAVE TWO KINDS OF PROPERTY: IRRIGATED, NONIRRIGATED. NONIRRIGATED ON MY BEST QUARTER IS \$11.42 AN ACRE AND ON MY BEST IRRIGATED LAND IS \$29.95 AN ACRE EVERY YEAR WHETHER I PRODUCE A CROP OR NOT. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: GOOD GRIEF, IS THERE LAND FOR SALE OUT THERE THAT A GUY COULD GET HIS HANDS ON? MINE IS ABOUT FOUR TIMES THAT. [LB745]

SENATOR HUGHES: YOU COME ON OUT. THERE'S PLENTY OF LAND FOR SALE. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: SENATOR FRIESEN, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR FRIESEN, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR FRIESEN: YES, I WOULD. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I WOULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION. CAN YOU GIVE ME A ROUGH ESTIMATE OF WHAT YOU PAY PER ACRE IN PROPERTY TAXES? [LB745]

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SENATOR FRIESEN: I'LL GIVE YOU A RANGE. IT'S PROBABLY BETWEEN \$45 AND \$60 AN ACRE. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: NOW YOU'RE GETTING MORE INTO MY RANGE. YOU'RE CLOSER, NOT THERE YET, BUT YOU'RE CLOSER. IS SENATOR BRASCH AVAILABLE? [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR BRASCH, ARE YOU IN THE CHAMBER? WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION, PLEASE? [LB745]

SENATOR BRASCH: YES, I WILL YIELD. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR. THIS IS GOING TO COME...I DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY HEADS UP OR ANYTHING. [LB745]

SENATOR BRASCH: NO, YOU DIDN'T. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF ROUGHLY WHAT IT...HOW MUCH PER ACRE YOU AND YOUR HUSBAND PAY IN PROPERTY TAX? [LB745]

SENATOR BRASCH: IT'S A LOT. AND SINCE I'M NOT RUNNING FOR ANY OFFICE, PRESIDENT OR OTHER, I'M NOT GOING TO DISCLOSE MY TAXES. (LAUGH) NO. I'M KIDDING THERE. I CAN'T TELL YOU. I MEAN WE'VE...IT'S INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY, BUT YES. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: WOULD IT BE ABOVE OR BELOW \$50, DO YOU KNOW? [LB745]

SENATOR BRASCH: ABOVE. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: OKAY. THANK YOU. [LB745]

SENATOR BRASCH: YEAH. [LB745]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: COLLEAGUES, I ASK THESE QUESTIONS BECAUSE SENATOR McCOLLISTER WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT GAME AND PARKS PAYS ON THE LAND THAT THEY OWN AND

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CONTROL. THEY PAY \$951,000--THAT'S A NICE PIECE OF CHANGE--ON 262,923 ACRES. THAT COMES OUT TO \$3.61 AN ACRE. THERE IS PART OF MY PROBLEM WITH HOW GAME AND PARKS DOES THINGS. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU CAN HAVE WHATEVER TIME I HAVE LEFT IF THE CHAIR SO ALLOWS. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CHAMBERS, 2:00. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE SAID BEFORE THAT I HAVE A LOT OF MATERIAL I'M GOING TO READ, BUT I HAVE SOME DELAYING MOTIONS THAT I CAN OFFER TO SHOW THE SERIOUSNESS OF MY INTENT. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ACCEPT ANY AMENDMENTS BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO. NOW, IF SENATOR McCOLLISTER WOULD BREAK THE CHAINS THAT BIND HIM, THEN MAYBE YOU COULD. THAT REMINDS ME OF A RHYME. I DIDN'T WRITE THIS, BUT I READ IT, AND IT STUCK WITH ME BECAUSE IT DEALT WITH PEOPLE WHO WERE ENSLAVED. THEY WERE NOT BLACK PEOPLE. THEY WERE NOT WORKING ON A PLANTATION. THEY WERE PEOPLE WHO SAT IN THE BOWS OF A SHIP AND THEY HELD ONTO THESE HUGE ROWING OARS, AND THEY WERE CHAINED. AND ONE OF THEM SAID, MY VERY CHAINS AND I GREW FRIENDS, SO MUCH A LONG COMMUNION TENDS TO MAKE US WHAT WE ARE THAT I RELINQUISH MY CHAINS WITH A MOURNFUL SIGH. I PUT THE WORD "MOURNFUL." BUT HE HAD BECOME SO HABITUATED TO THOSE CHAINS AND LIVING CHAINED AND BEING COMPELLED TO WORK,... [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THAT HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO BE FREE. THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS TO SENATORS. THEY FORGE THESE CHAINS ON YOU ONE LINK AT THE TIME, BUT YOU DISCLOSE TO OTHERS WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF. AND YOU WILL BE APPROACHED. IF YOU'RE EASY, YOU'RE THE ONE THEY WILL APPROACH. BUT BEFORE YOU ANSWER QUESTIONS TO ME TO TEACH ME A LESSON AND SHOW YOUR CONTEMPT FOR ME, YOU SHOULD TRY TO BE SURE THAT THE ANSWER YOU GIVE IS ALSO CORRECT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, HUGHES, FRIESEN, BRASCH, AND CHAMBERS. NEXT IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, I HAD MADE REFERENCE TO AN ARTICLE, AND I SEE THAT I DO HAVE A COPY ON MY DESK, SO I'M GOING TO READ IT INTO THE RECORD. IT COMES FROM THE LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR, DATED FEBRUARY 4, 2016. AND I WAS TESTIFYING BEFORE SENATOR SCHILZ'S COMMITTEE, OF WHICH SENATOR McCOLLISTER IS A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER. THIS IS THE TEXT OF WHAT WAS WRITTEN ABOUT MY APPEARANCE THERE. "OMAHA SENATOR ERNIE CHAMBERS TESTIFIED IN A NEUTRAL POSITION, GIVING A CORDIAL WARNING..."CORDIAL" IS THE WORD THAT I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT'S MINE OR NOT, BUT IT KIND OF HUMANIZES ME, SO I'LL ACCEPT IT. "OMAHA SENATOR ERNIE CHAMBERS TESTIFIED IN A NEUTRAL POSITION, GIVING A CORDIAL WARNING TO THE COMMITTEE THAT THE BILL AMENDED SECTIONS OF STATE LAW THAT SURROUND THE SECTION REGULATING THE ABILITY OF THE COMMISSION TO SET HUNTING SEASONS FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS. IT MAY BE, HE SAID, THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD ONCE AGAIN KILL THE BILL HE HAS REINTRODUCED THAT WOULD TAKE AWAY THE ABILITY OF THE COMMISSION TO SET HUNTING SEASONS FOR MOUNTAIN LIONS. 'I DON'T BELIEVE IN ATTACKING FROM AMBUSH. THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AMBUSH AND SURPRISE. BUT I DON'T EVEN WANT ANYBODY TO BE SURPRISED,' CHAMBERS SAID. HE POINTED OUT HE WAS 'VERY SERIOUS' ABOUT WANTING TO PROTECT MOUNTAIN LIONS. 'I JUST WANT TO LET THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS KNOW THAT WHEN YOU SEND SENATOR McCOLLISTER'S BILL OUT, YOU'RE GIVING ME A VEHICLE FOR WHAT I INTEND TO DO, BUT THAT WON'T BE MY ONLY VEHICLE,' HE SAID." I SAID IT, I MEANT IT, AND AS...WHEN I WAS A KID THEY'D SAY, AND I'M HERE TO REPRESENT IT. I WON'T GET TIRED. THERE ARE TIMES--I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS IF SENATOR HADLEY IS HERE OR HE'S LISTENING--WHEN I EASED UP ON SOME THINGS BECAUSE I'M VERY COGNIZANT OF OUR PROCESSES, HOW DIFFICULT IT IS FOR ANY SPEAKER TO KEEP THE TRAIN ON THE TRACK AND MOVING IN THE PROPER DIRECTION. IT CAN GO INTO REVERSE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT EVEN A PAUSE. SO WHEN I SEE SOMEBODY STRUGGLING LIKE THAT TO DO A JOB, FOR TRIFLING REASONS I WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THAT. BUT AS IT'S SAID IN THE LAW, THERE ARE SITUATIONS WHERE ONE THING WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNATED "A," ANOTHER THING DESIGNATED "B," CAN BE SO CLOSE IN WEIGHT THAT YOU CANNOT READILY SEE THAT A CHOICE SHOULD BE MADE OF ONE RATHER THAN THE OTHER, SO YOU DO WHAT THEY REFER TO AS WEIGH THE EQUITIES: WHICH ONE, WHEN YOU GO THROUGH THIS WEIGHING PROCESS, SHOULD PREVAIL? THE EMBLEM OF JUSTICE IS A BLINDFOLDED WOMAN, AND WITH SCALES, AND THE IDEA IS THAT A QUANTITY OF ONE THING IS PUT IN ONE OF THE LITTLE CUPS ON ONE SIDE OF THE SCALE, A QUANTITY OF SOMETHING ELSE IS PUT IN THE OTHER CUP, THERE ARE CONTENDING FACTORS, AND WHICHEVER ONE CARRIES THE MOST WEIGHT IS THE ONE THAT WILL WIN.

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WELL, I'M NOT BLINDFOLDED AND I'M NOT BLINDSIDING ANYBODY HERE, BUT ON THIS ONE, NOT FOR THE SPEAKER AND NOT FOR ANYBODY ELSE SHALL I RELENT. NOW, IF SOMEBODY COULD SHOW ME THAT BY RELENTING I WOULD HELP THESE ANIMALS, THEN I WOULD RELENT FOR THE SAKE OF THOSE ANIMALS, BUT THAT IS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR SCHILZ A QUESTION IF HE'S STILL HERE. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE, SENATOR. AND, SENATOR SCHILZ, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR SCHILZ, DO YOU THINK THE ACTIVITY THAT I'VE BEEN ENGAGING IN OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS OR SO HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH GAME AND PARKS DECIDING THEY'RE GOING TO UNDERTAKE THIS MULTIYEAR STUDY AND IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON HUNTING SEASONS IN THE MEANTIME? DO YOU THINK MY ACTIVITY HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT? [LB745]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I CAN'T SAY, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO KNOW THAT THAT'S THE CASE, AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE CONNECTED WITH GAME AND PARKS WHO, IF YOU TALK TO THEM, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO NOT HAVE TO...OH, THAT'S ALL I'LL ASK YOU. YOU WON'T HAVE TO SPECULATE. I KNOW WHY IT'S DONE. THEY WERE BULLISH, THEY WERE ARROGANT, AND THEY WERE DEVIL-MAY-CARE WHEN THEY SET THAT FIRST HUNTING SEASON, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD UNLEASH, BUT THEY'RE FINDING IT OUT NOW AND THE BODY IS GOING TO FIND OUT ALSO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR JOHNSON REFERRED TO THE CURRENT CHARGES FOR PARK ENTRY FEES AND I'VE RECENTLY, OR JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO, HANDED OUT AN ATTACHMENT THAT I'D LIKE TO REFER TO. YOU'LL SEE THAT OUR CURRENT YEARLY FEE TO ENTER A PARK IS \$25. AND AT THE BOTTOM OF THAT PAGE, IT SHOWS YOU HOW

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NEBRASKA'S CHARGE OF \$25 RELATES TO ALL STATES. THERE ARE 14 STATES THAT DON'T CHARGE ANY FEES, AND I THINK YOU'LL SEE THAT NEBRASKA IS AMONG THE LOWEST. OF SURROUNDING STATES WITH PARK FEES, NEBRASKA IS TIED FOR THE LOWEST--THE LOWEST--AT \$25, SO I THINK THE FEE SCHEDULE IS MORE THAN REASONABLE. AND IN ALL OF SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS, HE HASN'T GIVE US ANY HARD EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT GAME AND PARKS HASN'T PROPERLY MANAGED THE WILDLIFE IN NEBRASKA. YES, THERE WAS ONE HUNTING SEASON, ONE HUNTING SEASON, BUT THEY ARE CURRENTLY INVOLVED WITH A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES THAT TRACK THOSE MAGNIFICENT ANIMALS, ESTABLISH HABITAT. I CAN SEE NO EVIDENCE THAT GAME AND PARKS HASN'T DONE A GOOD JOB FOR THE CITIZENS OF NEBRASKA WITH REGARD TO WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR PANSING BROOKS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WAS WONDERING IF SENATOR McCOLLISTER WOULD BE WILLING TO ANSWER A COUPLE QUESTIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I WILL. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING SOME QUESTIONS. WHAT I'M WONDERING IS, AND PART OF IT IS BECAUSE I'M A SECOND-YEAR SENATOR AND PART OF IT IS BECAUSE I'M NOT A HUNTER I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT, WHY IS IT THAT THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION IS SO ADAMANT ABOUT KEEPING THE RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO KILL MOUNTAIN LIONS? IS IT BECAUSE IT'S MONEY, BECAUSE THEY CAN GET SUCH A HIGH PAYMENT? BECAUSE I HAVE NO PROBLEM ABOUT RAISING THE FEES FOR THE PARKS, BUT I DO QUESTION...I JUST...I DON'T GET THE WHOLE HUNTING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS THING WHEN THEY'RE SO...AND MAYBE I'VE MISSED PART OF THE CONVERSATION, BUT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY, WHEN THERE'S AN ANIMAL THAT'S AT SUCH RISK, WE HAVE TO FIGHT TOOTH AND NAIL TO KEEP THE RIGHT TO SHOOT IT. SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN TO THAT ME A LITTLE BETTER? [LB745]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I CAN, SENATOR. I THINK GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION IS ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN THEIR PREROGATIVES TO CONTROL WILDLIFE AND THE ACTIVITIES THAT THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR. IT'S NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS BODY TO MICROMANAGE HOW GAME AND PARKS DOES ITS BUSINESS. WE SET BROAD POLICIES, WE CHANGE THE FEES, BUT IT'S NOT OUR OBLIGATION TO MICROMANAGE WHAT THEY DO ON A DAILY BASIS. THAT'S THE BASIS OF THEIR OBJECTION. THE MONEY THEY RECEIVED FROM MOUNTAIN LION HUNTING ON THAT ONE SEASON THEY HAD WAS DE MINIMIS COMPARED TO ALL THE FEES AND MONIES THAT THEY RECEIVE. SO I'M CERTAIN IT WASN'T THE MONEY. THEY CERTAINLY JUST WANT TO MAINTAIN THEIR PREROGATIVES TO MANAGE THEIR OWN OPERATIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: OKAY, SO DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THEY RECEIVE FOR A HUNTING LICENSE FOR A MOUNTAIN LION? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: NOT EXACTLY BUT, AS I RECALL, SENATOR CHAMBERS INDICATED AROUND \$17,000... [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: WOW. THAT'S... [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: ...WAS THE ONE OCCASION. I KNOW THEY AUCTIONED OFF THE NUMBER OF PERMITS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE. AND WE HAVE NO INDICATION TO KNOW THAT THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER SEASON SOON. IN FACT, WE GET EVERY SUGGESTION THAT THE STUDY WILL LAST FOR ANOTHER COUPLE OF YEARS, SO I DON'T THINK A MOUNTAIN LION SEASON IS IMMINENT. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: OKAY, WELL, JUST TO FOLLOW UP A LITTLE BIT ON WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, WE DO...THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF DEPARTMENTS THAT WE APPLY OUR POLICY, OUR RULES. WE LOOK AT FRACKING ISSUES, WE LOOK AT ALL SORTS OF ISSUES, AND DIRECT DEPARTMENTS HOW TO PROCEED. AND SO I THINK THAT THAT'S NOT NECESSARILY THE BEST ARGUMENT IN THAT REGARD. AND I APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO RAISE THEIR FEES. BOY, IF THAT'S THE FEE FOR A LICENSE, AT \$17,000, THAT WOULD BE PRETTY HARD TO MAKE UP IF WE DID TAKE THAT AWAY, SO I CAN SEE WHY THEY ARE FIGHTING FOR THAT. IS THERE ANY OTHER ANIMAL THAT GARNERS SUCH A HUGE FEE FOR HUNTING OF THAT ANIMAL? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY. I DOUBT THERE IS. [LB745]

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SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: HUH? OH, THE SHEEP? HOW ABOUT MOUNTAIN SHEEP? DO YOU KNOW? I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN A MOUNTAIN SHEEP IN NEBRASKA. I'VE SEEN ANTELOPE AND ELK, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN MOUNTAIN SHEEP. WOW. [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, THERE'S 45 CATEGORIES OF FEE INCREASES, SO I THINK THERE IS A FEE FOR THAT AS WELL, BUT IT CERTAINLY DOESN'T REACH THE...APPROACH THE AMOUNT OF THAT ONE MOUNTAIN LION HUNT. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: SO DO YOU BELIEVE, SENATOR...THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT BY ALLOWING THEM TO CONTINUE TO GIVE LICENSES TO SHOOT THESE ANIMALS, THAT THERE IS NO OTHER WAY THAT THEY COULD MANAGE... [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT...THAT THEY COULD MANAGE THOSE ANIMALS? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WE CERTAINLY COULD TELL GAME AND PARKS WHAT TO DO WITH MOUNTAIN LIONS. THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT OUR AUTHORITY TO DO THAT. WHAT WE HAVE TO...THE QUESTION WE HAVE TO ANSWER IS, HAVE THEY MISMANAGED THE AUTHORITY THAT WE'VE GIVEN THEM? AND I CONTEND THAT THEY HAVE NOT. SHOW ME AN EXAMPLE HOW THEY HAVE MISMANAGED MOUNTAIN LIONS, APART FROM THAT ONE MOUNTAIN LION SEASON, AND WE COULD ARGUE ABOUT THAT UNTIL THE COWS COME HOME. BUT GAME AND PARKS DOES A GOOD JOB AND, UNTIL WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, I DON'T THINK IT'S OUR JOB TO TELL THEM HOW TO MANAGE THEIR MOUNTAIN LIONS. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: OKAY. OF COURSE, IN THIS WORLD OF DIMINISHING ANIMALS, DIMINISHING AREAS FOR ANIMALS TO RUN, OF COURSE, THAT IS AN ISSUE, I BELIEVE, THAT WE NEED TO CONSIDER, SO... [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATORS. [LB745]

SENATOR PANSING BROOKS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

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SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR PANSING BROOKS AND SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SENATOR McCOLLISTER CANNOT HEAR WHAT HE'S SAYING AND SEE HOW HE SOUNDS. HE SAID, YOU CANNOT SHOW ME ONE EXAMPLE OF WHERE GAME AND PARKS HAS NOT PROPERLY MANAGED OTHER THAN THE ONE EXAMPLE THAT WE KNOW ABOUT. SO SHOW ME WHERE JESSE JAMES EVER MURDERED ANYBODY EXCEPT THE GUY THAT HE MURDERED--THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF STATEMENT THAT USUALLY WOULD COME FROM SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR McCOLLISTER DOESN'T REALIZE THAT THAT'S WHEN THEY HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MISMANAGE; AND IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, THEY'D STILL BE DOING IT NOW. AND WHEN THEY LET THOSE DOGS HUNT DOWN THOSE ANIMALS, THAT IS NOT EVEN THE WAY A HUNTER WOULD HUNT THESE ANIMALS, IF HE OR SHE PROFESSES TO BE A HUNTER. I KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR McCOLLISTER A QUESTION OR TWO IF HE WOULD ANSWER. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, I WILL. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, DO YOU KNOW IF THE MEMBERS WHO COMPRISE THE COMMISSION ARE ALLOWED TO STAY AT ANY OF THE FACILITIES THAT ARE UNDER GAME AND PARKS' AEGIS FOR FREE? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I DON'T...I'M NOT AWARE OF THEIR POLICIES WITH REGARD TO THEIR COMMISSIONERS. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: LET'S SAY THERE'S A PLACE WHERE IT'S SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS A NIGHT. SHOULD THE COMMISSIONERS BE ALLOWED TO STAY THERE FOR FREE BECAUSE THEY'RE COMMISSIONERS, IN YOUR OPINION? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I THINK THAT'S A DECISION THAT GAME AND PARKS SHOULD MAKE AND... [LB745]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO THEN YOU CANNOT CONCLUDE THAT THAT MIGHT BE A PERQUISITE WHICH IS NOT SUPPOSED TO GO ALONG WITH THE OFFICE ITSELF. YOU SAY THAT IT'S ALL RIGHT...IF THEY DECIDE THEY SHOULD GET THESE BENEFITS, THEN YOU THINK THEY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE THEM, CORRECT? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN WHETHER OR NOT THEY RECEIVE THOSE BENEFITS, I'M CERTAIN WE CAN GET YOU AN ANSWER, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'M ASKING FOR YOUR OPINION. I'M KEEPING IT SPECULATIVE TO SEE WHAT YOUR MORAL COMPASS IS. SHOULD PEOPLE WHO ARE ON A COMMISSION THAT REGULATES GAME AND PARKS AND ALL OF THESE PARKS AND PLACES WHERE THEY HAVE BUILDINGS AND CHARGE THE PUBLIC TO STAY THERE AND THEY CAN'T STAY WITHOUT PAYING, SHOULD THESE PEOPLE BE ALLOWED TO STAY THERE FREE BECAUSE THEY'RE ON THE COMMISSION? [LB745]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IT WOULD BE MY OPINION, SENATOR, THAT THEY SHOULD PROBABLY PAY JUST LIKE ANYBODY ELSE. BUT WHEN THEY ATTEND A MEETING OF GAME AND PARKS OR REVIEW FACILITIES, I THINK IT'S ENTIRELY PROPER FOR THEM TO RECEIVE LODGING OR WHATEVER, MEALS OR... [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU AND YOU GAVE THE ANSWER--THE ANGEL OF YOUR HIGHER, MORE INTELLECTUAL NATURE GAVE IT--THAT, IF THEY'RE STAYING THERE, THEY SHOULD PAY THE SAME WAY AS ANYBODY ELSE. WE CAN AGREE WITH THAT. BUT, SEE, YOU ARE SO WORRIED ABOUT CREATING A TRAP FOR YOUR MASTERS--EXCUSE ME, YOUR MANAGERS-- THAT YOU DON'T... YOU WON'T ANSWER A QUESTION, THE ANSWER TO WHICH YOU KNOW AS A CONSERVATIVE. YOU WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE TO THINK TWICE ABOUT IT. PEOPLE IN OFFICE SHOULD NOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT OFFICE TO GET FOR THEMSELVES PERSONAL BENEFITS THAT ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC, THAT THE PUBLIC WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR. A CONSERVATIVE WOULDN'T HAVE DIFFICULTY ANSWERING THAT QUESTION. BUT SINCE YOU LET THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION PUT YOU WHERE YOU ARE NOW, YOU CANNOT GIVE THE ANSWER THAT WE KNOW YOU WOULD GIVE BECAUSE OF THE INDEPENDENT THINKER WE THOUGHT YOU WERE. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE. AND I WANT TO SEE THAT OLD SENATOR McCOLLISTER COME BACK. THAT'S ALL I WILL ASK YOU RIGHT NOW. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M GOING TO STAY

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ON THIS BILL, AND I'M GOING TO FIND OTHER BILLS THAT WILL GIVE ME THIS OPPORTUNITY. AND YOU CAN LOOK ON VARIOUS LISTS AND FIND BILLS THAT I HAVE AND DO WHAT YOU CAN TO KILL THEM, AND WHAT YOU WILL DO IS HELP ME EAT UP TIME OFF THE CLOCK. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND YOU'LL GET NERVOUS. YOU CAN'T HURT ME. YOU CAN HURT YOURSELF. THIS PLACE MIGHT BE YOUR LIFE. IT'S NEITHER MY LIFE NOR MY WIFE. YOU KNOW WHY I WORK HARD AT IT? I WORK HARD AT ANYTHING I SAY THAT I'M GOING TO PLEDGE MYSELF TO DO, WHATEVER IT IS, AND I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO DO THE BEST JOB I CAN HERE. BEING NUMERICALLY OUTNUMBERED, I CANNOT COUNT ON NUMBERS. UNWILLING TO PLAY THE GAME OF GOING ALONG TO GET ALONG, I CANNOT CUT DEALS WITH THESE AGENCIES AND THESE OTHERS WHO CAN OFFER YOU THINGS, EVEN SUPPORT IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN. I DON'T DO THINGS THAT WAY, BUT YOU'RE FREE TO DO IT ANY WAY YOU WANT TO AND YOU DO IT YOUR WAY, SO ACCORD TO ME THE UNDERSTANDING THAT I'M GOING TO DO MY WAY WHAT I THINK OUGHT TO BE DONE, AND I'M IN THE PROCESS OF DOING IT. AND I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE ABLE TO COME BACK AND RENEW THE STRUGGLE AT 1:30, BUT THAT'S NOT TO BE THE CASE. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'RE WELCOME, SENATOR CHAMBERS. THE QUEUE IS EMPTY. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND BECAUSE WE'RE LEAVING HERE AT NOON, WE DON'T COME BACK AT 1:30 TO RENEW THE BATTLE. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS LIKE FOR ME? A FIGHTER WHO IS TRAINED FOR A FIGHT AND IS READY TO GO, JUICES ARE FLOWING, RUN THROUGH THE BATTLE PLAN IN HIS MIND, AND THEY SAY, OH, BY THE WAY, THE FIGHT IS NOT TONIGHT AS WE TOLD YOU, IT'S A WEEK FROM TONIGHT. THAT DOESN'T MAKE THE FIGHTER FEEL GOOD. I'M JUST KIND OF REVVING MY ENGINE UP TO REALLY GET INTO THE BATTLE. I HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED READING THE MATERIAL THAT I BROUGHT. I READ FROM AN ARTICLE IN THE PAPER, BUT I'VE GOT REAMS OF INFORMATION THAT I'M GOING TO READ INTO THE RECORD, AND I WAS GOING TO HAVE THE

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OPPORTUNITY TO GET INTO THAT. IT DID NOT BOTHER ME MUCH TO USE MUCH OF THIS MORNING, HAVING THE EXCHANGES WITH SENATOR McCOLLISTER THAT I HAD, BECAUSE HE'S A THOUGHTFUL MAN AND HE'S GOING TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE HAS SAID OVER THIS LONG WEEKEND AND HE'S GOING TO REALIZE THAT HE LET PEOPLE PUT HIM IN A POSITION WHICH HE WOULD NOT BE IN IF HE WAS ON HIS OWN. AND WHEN PEOPLE SIT ON THE SIDELINES AND SAY, YOU GO FIGHT SOMEBODY, THE CONSEQUENCES ARE NOT BORNE BY THEM. AND WHAT IS SAID ON THIS FLOOR IS SEEN BY EVERYBODY WHO WATCHES US, NOT JUST BY THE FEW SENATORS, THE SPRINKLING OF SENATORS HERE, NOT EVEN THE OTHERS WHO ARE HIDING OUT SOMEPLACE. THAT IS SEEN BY THE PUBLIC, BUT THEY HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND, I'M SURE, THAT THIS CHAMBER OFTEN IS VERY SPARSELY POPULATED WHENEVER I'M SPEAKING ON ANY ISSUE, SO THIS IS PAR FOR THE COURSE. BUT THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO STOP WATCHING A LOT OF WHAT WE'RE DOING BECAUSE I'M GOING TO BE DOING A LOT MORE TALKING. THESE ANIMALS ARE ENTITLED TO THE KIND OF PROTECTION I'M TRYING TO GIVE THEM. AND BEFORE SENATOR SCHILZ RUNS AROUND HERE TALKING ABOUT HOW SCIENTIFIC THESE PEOPLE ARE, HE SHOULD CHECK WHAT HE SAYS ABOUT HOW HE REJECTS WHAT THEY SAID HIMSELF BECAUSE IT GOES CONTRARY TO WHAT THOSE PEOPLE HE SERVES, WHO WANT TO KILL THESE ANIMALS, WOULD SAY. HE REJECTED. I DIDN'T COME UP WITH THAT NUMBER. GAME AND PARKS DID IT, BUT HE REJECTS IT. THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE RIGHT. I'D WANT HIM TO TELL ME THAT HE HAD A GPS OR A HELICOPTER HAD IDENTIFIED EVERY MOUNTAIN LION IN THIS STATE AND HAD FLOWN OVER AND COUNTED MORE THAN 22. HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW MANY ANIMALS THERE ARE HERE. I COULD HAVE SAID SIX AND HE DOESN'T KNOW. HE'LL SAY, WELL, I DON'T ACCEPT THAT. WHY? IT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT TO ME. WELL, THE SCIENTISTS GAVE THE NUMBER THAT I GAVE, BUT HE KNOWS MORE THAN THEY DO. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE THERE'S A POSITION HE'S TAKEN ON THIS BILL. AND YOU SEE WHAT I DO: I WAIT TILL PEOPLE ARE IN THE CHAMBER AND I BASE WHAT I SAY ABOUT THEM ON WHAT THEY SAID ON THIS FLOOR. IF THEY DON'T WANT IT DEALT WITH ON THIS FLOOR, DON'T SAY IT TO ME. THERE WAS A GUY NAMED BAD BOB WHO WAS GOING TO LOOK FOR JUDGE ROY BEAN. AND HE WENT TO JUDGE ROY BEAN'S TOWN AND BAD BOB WAS SO TRIGGER...HIS TRIGGER FINGER WAS SO ITCHY, HIS HANDS WERE SHAKING ALL THE TIME, SO HE WENT TO THIS CAMPFIRE WHERE THEY HAD. HE PICKED UP A POT OF HOT COFFEE, BOILING, AND HE ATE A WHOLE ONION AND WASHED IT DOWN WITH THAT POT OF HOT COFFEE. WELL, ACTUALLY HE WAS IN A FARMYARD. AND THEN SUDDENLY A SHOT RANG OUT AND BAD BOB HAD A BIG HOLE BLOWN IN HIS BACK AND WE COULD SEE ALL THE WAY THROUGH HIM. HE WAS IN KANSAS AND WE COULD SEE ALL THE WAY FROM KANSAS TO NEBRASKA

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THROUGH THAT HOLE IN BAD BOB'S BACK. AND THESE PEOPLE WHO SAW WHERE JUDGE ROY BEAN HAD LAIN DOWN IN THE HAYLOFT AND SHOT HIM WITH A RIFLE IN THE BACK SAID, JUDGE, YOU DIDN'T EVEN GIVE HIM A CHANCE. AND JUDGE ROY BEAN, WITHOUT TURNING A HAIR, SAID, IF BAD BOB WANTED A CHANCE, HE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO MY TOWN. IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO TAKE ISSUE WITH YOU, DON'T SAY ANYTHING ON THIS FLOOR. BUT IF YOU SAY SOMETHING ON THIS FLOOR, I'M GOING TO TAKE ISSUE WITH IT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND WHEN I THINK YOU'RE WRONG, I'M GOING TO SAY YOU'RE WRONG. AND IF I THINK YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF, I'M GOING TO SAY YOU'RE CONTRADICTING YOURSELF. BUT NOW YOU ALL KNOW WHO THE REAL SCIENTIST HERE ON THE FLOOR IS: SENATOR SCHILZ. SO IF GAME AND PARKS SAYS ANYTHING, I'M GOING TO ASK SENATOR SCHILZ WHAT HIS OPINION IS FIRST. AND IF HE AGREES, THEN I'LL ACCEPT IT. IF HE DISAGREES, I'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT IT WITH A JAUNDICED EYE. THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO LISTEN TO HERE, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO LISTEN TO IT IN SILENCE. AND YOU ALL HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN THE WORST OF ME. I FINALLY GOT STRAIGHT WHAT MAE WEST SAID. SHE SAID, WHEN I'M GOOD I'M VERY GOOD, BUT WHEN I'M BAD I'M BETTER. THAT'S WHAT MAE WEST...IF THERE'S A FEMALE HEROINE THAT I HAVE WHO RANKS WITH POPEYE, MAE WEST IS MY WOMAN. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LB745]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON THE MOTION. THE QUESTION IS THE RECONSIDERATION MO203. THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB745]

CLERK: 1 AYE, 25 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB745]

SENATOR KRIST: MOTION FAILS. ITEMS? [LB745]

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

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CLERK: YES, SIR, I DO. YOUR COMMITTEE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORTS LR455 TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORTS LB1073 TO GENERAL FILE, LB874 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS, LB935 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS. TRANSPORTATION REPORTS LB1003 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS; JUDICIARY, LB1094 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS. SENATOR SCHILZ WOULD LIKE TO PRINT AN AMENDMENT TO LB881, SENATOR CAMPBELL TO LB1032. ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB1009 AND LB934 AND LB934A TO SELECT FILE. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 945-953.) [LR455 LB1073 LB874 LB935 LB1003 LB1094 LB881 LB1032 LB1009 LB934 LB934A]

MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR KOLOWSKI WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING, MARCH 15, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED UNTIL TUESDAY MORNING. HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND. DO SOMETHING NICE FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILIES.