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Floor Debate
February 23, 2018

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LB618 LB710 LB744 LB757 LB758 LB803 LB827 LB859 LB887 LB948 LB988 LB993
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LR322 LR323 LR324 LR325]

SENATOR HUGHES PRESIDING

SENATOR HUGHES: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the thirty-second day of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for the day is Senator Rob Clements. Please rise.

SENATOR CLEMENTS: (Prayer offered.)

SENATOR HUGHES: Thank you. I call to order the thirty-second day of the One Hundred Fifth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. Your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB439 to Select File with amendments. Your Committee on Revenue reports LB1089 to General File with amendments. Committee on Government reports LB827, LB859, and LB1119 to General File as well as LB426, LB887, LB1000, and LB1003 with committee amendments. Business and Labor gives report on two sets of gubernatorial appointments, plus two additional reports on the Nebraska Tourism. Amendments to be printed to LB1084 from Senator Briese. Report of registered lobbyists for the current week and a reminder that various agency reports have been filed electronically with the Legislature and available through the Web site. That's all I have at this time. (Legislative Journal pages 727-731.) [LB439 LB1089 LB827 LB859 LB1119 LB426 LB887 LB1000 LB1003 LB1084]

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SENATOR HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The Chair recognizes Speaker Scheer for an announcement.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. It's Friday, the last day of the week, so I'll have my little chat with you this morning. First, reminder as of Wednesday, we will be going full day. So if it's not on your calendar, you might want to put it on your calendar. The second thing would be we'll be passing out a list of bills that I have put together in divisions as we have in previous years as we get towards the end. They are five different divisions. They will not necessarily show up in any particular order. We've tried to contact all the offices so that you're aware that your bill is on the list. Hopefully, we will move through these in the next week or so. If we are very expedient and we get more than this, I'll have to find some others, but right now this list will hopefully get us through next week, so you will want to be prepared. They will be put on the agenda as blocks as these divisions, so each day when the agenda comes out for the following day, you'll see what block may have been added. They may not add simply if we don't move enough to require another division to come on, we won't put one on, but at least everyone knows what's out there at this point in time as far as coming up on the agenda. Again, if there's any questions, please contact myself or the office. We'll be glad to help you in whatever way we can. And if there are other items other than this list that you've got, again, we're ready to help. A lot of you still have bills, as well as committee bills still in committee. I would start, if I were you, to check on the availability of those. Committees, if you have not excec or you're going to be execing, if you could take special notice of the bills that either are your priorities as a committee or there are other priorities of senators or Speaker priorities in there, it is certainly the committee's determination what comes out or not, but if you could take a look at those so that at least we have a better idea of what is going to be available to discuss on the floor and what perhaps may not be. And I know everyone has been pushed very hard on committee work, so there hasn't been tons of time for execs. So as we move forward in the next week or so, hopefully you'll be able to make some of those determinations so we can get more of the bills out. As of Wednesday morning when we announced the Speaker priorities which are 25, that left 82 bills that would either be your regular priorities or the committee priorities. Forty of those forty-two that were designated are still in committee. So, we...and we have moved probably 10 or 12 of the priority bills that are already out in various levels of attainment. So if you want stuff to get done, we're going to have to start getting things out of committee. If they're not coming out of committee, that's fine with me, that's less that we'll have to worry about, but it may not be fine with you. So if you've got a bill in or if you are a committee chair, please start taking closer look at what you are still holding and determine what it is we're going to have on the floor because it would be nice to have everything available at least that could be. And I realize as committees, sometimes it will take some additional time to work on your committee bills that are coming out. There may be some items that you're going to put together. As caveat to that, chairmen, if a bill is a committee designation and it comes out, or any bill that comes out and you have added more than one bill as an amendment, I would request

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that you provide a fact sheet that will be passed out with that so that everyone on the floor understands exactly which bills and what parts of which bills have been added to that as an attachment, as an amendment so that we all know what we're talking about rather than trying to read a bill and trying to figure out where it came from. I think in order for us to have adequate debate and intelligent debate, we have to know what is in the bill if we have added other bills or components of other bills. So please keep that in mind as well as you are working on your bills. If nothing else, have a great weekend. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Scheer. Items, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, some additional items. Your Committee on Education reports LB803 as well as LB988 to General File. And three reports on gubernatorial appointments from the Education Committee. That's all I have at this time. (Legislative Journal page 731-733.) [LB803 LB988]

SENATOR HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now move to Final Reading. Members should return to their seats in preparation for Final Reading. Mr. Clerk, the first bill is LB78. [LB78]

SPEAKER SCHEER PRESIDING

SPEAKER SCHEER: Mr. Clerk, LB78. [LB78]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB78 on Final Reading.) [LB78]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB78 pass? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB78]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 733.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB78]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB78 passes. We'll now proceed to LB285. [LB78 LB285]

CLERK: (Read LB285 on Final Reading.) [LB285]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB285 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB285]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 733-734.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB285]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB285 passes. We'll now proceed to LB345. [LB285 LB345]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB345 on Final Reading.) [LB345]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to proceedings having been complied with, the question is, shall LB345 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB345]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 734-735.) The vote is 43 ayes, 1 nay, 1 present and not voting, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB345]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB345 passes. We'll now proceed to LB472. [LB345 LB472]

CLERK: (Read LB472 on Final Reading.) [LB472]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB472 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB472]

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 735.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting. [LB472]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you. LB472 passes. We'll now proceed to LB480. [LB472 LB480]

CLERK: (Read LB480 on Final Reading.) [LB480]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB480 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all

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voted that wish to? Senator McCollister, would you like to vote for your own bill? Please record. [LB480]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 735-736.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB480]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB480 passes. We'll now proceed to LB486. [LB480 LB486]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB486 on Final Reading.) [LB486]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB486 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB486]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 736-737.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB486]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is shall...I'm sorry. LB486 passes. Move to the next bill, LB618. [LB486 LB618]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB618 on Final Reading.) [LB618]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB618 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB618]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal page 737.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB618]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB618 passes. We'll now proceed to LB710. Mr. Clerk. [LB618 LB710]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB710 on Final Reading.) [LB710]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB710 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB710]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 737-738.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB710]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB710 does pass. We'll now proceed to LB744. Mr. Clerk, the first vote is to dispense with the at-large reading. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. This will require 30 votes. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB710 LB744]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 42 ayes, 2 nays to dispense with the at-large reading, Mr. President. [LB744]

SPEAKER SCHEER: The at-large reading is dispensed with. Mr. Clerk, read the title. [LB744]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read title of LB744.) [LB744]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB744 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk. [LB744]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 738-739.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB744]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB744 passes. We'll now proceed to LB757. [LB744 LB757]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB757 on Final Reading.) [LB757]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB757 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB757]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 739-740.) The vote is 46 ayes, 0 nays, 3 excused and not voting. [LB757]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB757 passes. (Doctor of the day introduced.) We'll now proceed to LB275. [LB757 LB275]

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ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return LB275 to Select File for specific amendment, that being strike the enacting clause. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Smith just demonstrated one of the reasons I don't sit down in these chairs. (Laughter) However, I don't believe that Senator Smith was to be the target. I think I was to be the target, but they just got us mixed up because when you look at him and look at me, we do kind of look alike, we're both males. We're both members of the Legislature. And now down to some business which is serious, disturbing to me, and I'm going to be distracted from what I wanted to talk about on this motion. But in order that I can make it clear why I'm doing this, as I've stated at earlier stages of discussion, Senator Hughes persuaded a number of my colleagues to not vote to advance this bill of mine which relates to the black tail prairie dogs. That bill number is LB449 and I have prioritized it. However, I am following the advice of the father of the late John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy who said, don't get mad, get even, with the refinement that Senator McDonnell gave to me which says, forgive your enemies, but don't forget their names. I have on my desk one of the...I guess they would be called postcards that are in a package handed out to all of us and they are handed out by the Great Plains Ecotourism Coalition, which is committed to promoting environmental conservation and to building thriving communities through nature-based tourism in the Great Plains. The various sites that they mention and critters, there is the bison rebirth area, rails to trails, butterfly byway, crane country, flights of fancy, fossil freeway, Pelican Lake, seas of grass, dancing chickens, scenic rivers, starry skies, and prairie dogs. And the one that relates to prairie dogs shows three of them atop the ground. A large one is standing upright and two are looking at you and they look like they're smaller. Then in one of the cutaways of a tunnel, you see another small prairie dog looking out at you if you're looking at the card. On the front of this card it says, Great Plains Ecotourism Coalition, Centers for Great Plains Studies, Lincoln, Nebraska. Prairie dogs--see a town underground. This comment--the prairie dog was once a major part of Great Plains life. Vast prairie dog towns stretched for miles across the open prairies. Today, scattered populations can be found mainly in protected areas. I'm one of those who would like to protect some areas that happen to be on the property of people who want prairie dogs. How is it or how ironic is it that an animal which is ballyhooed as a tourist attraction for the state is to be exterminated if certain people have their way by allowing the government of a county to send agents, whomever they choose, onto that property which is not in the possession of one who wants to kill prairie dogs, but it is adjacent to the property of someone who does. So if the adjacent property owner files a complaint, the law doesn't say it has to be verified any kind of way. The law does not say that an investigation has to be undertaken to see if there are even prairie dogs on the complainant's property. There is no investigation to determine if there are prairie dogs. Did they come from the property of the one complained against? Could they have come from the property of other adjacent property owners? None of

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that is required. Then a whole panoply of horrors will unfold that impinge on the property rights of the one complained against. I received a letter from a guy called Jack Anderson who is a Sheridan County commissioner in District 3 out there. Sheridan County is the only one of 93 counties that has used...well, actually they haven't used this atrocious piece of legislation. They have set up a Prairie Dog Management Committee, but they've never had to use this bill and the irony is that when this Jack Anderson wrote a letter to me, a copy of what he sent to all of the senators, he included what he called a success story. And do you know what that success story consisted of? Various property owners in a 700-acre area coming together and deciding to control the prairie dogs. They talked about the assistance that they have gotten in this effort from various agencies. [LB275 LB449]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Excuse me, Senator. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Please keep our inside voices, Senators. Thank you. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, we have to understand that I'm such an inspirational speaker that in the same way when a great singer sings, other people are...they just have an overwhelming urge to join in and hum or sing or pat their foot or somehow show their appreciation of and approval of the singing. So when I'm speaking, others are taken with a desire to join me. So that's why there is the buzz like locusts or chirping of crickets, Ricketts crickets to be precise, or cicadas, and it doesn't bother me because I think I have far more people who listen and are not in this Chamber, and they are the people to whom I'm addressing my remarks. They are residents of Nebraska. I found out from mail I've received, they are residents of other states. So those are the people I will talk to. Even the one that you all pray to most of these mornings will say...did say, let he that hath ears to hear, let him hear. Well, if you don't have ears to hear, forget it, you don't have to listen. But there are people who want to. And for those people, I'm going to continue presenting my views. What is it that has distracted me this morning from focusing on the prairie dog issue? I was given what is called a tweet by Pete. Well, it doesn't say a tweet by Pete. I kind of added that a little bit of rhyming because that's what I do. There is this notation, World News Tonight. The mayor of Dallas urges the NRA to find another city to host its annual convention, taking a stand against gun violence in the wake of last week's Florida school shooting. Above that is the tweet from Pete. NRA, we want your convention in Nebraska. Nebraskans love our constitutional rights and apparently they love that more than they love the lives of their children. The NRA is one of the most, in my mind, criminal, cutthroat, irresponsible, un-American organization that is allowed to operate, to provide the weapons that are knowingly provided that will be used... [LB275]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to kill children. Schools used to be places where children could go to learn. Now they have become in some instances virtual slaughterhouses. Then this idiot you all have for a President is talking about arming teachers. With what? Hidden pistols. He is such a fool that he thinks a person with a pistol has a chance against somebody with an AR-15 or an AK-47 or an Uzi. That is totally insane. Teachers are not hired to be rent-a-cops, to be security guards, to kill people. That is not their job. He doesn't carry a pistol. He has people trained who carry pistols so he doesn't have to kill anybody. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator, but you're next in the queue, so you're recognized. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. However, he did say when he was campaigning, he could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody and he wouldn't lose a vote among his base. That's because they're as foolish and stupid as he is. When you have a man totally lacking in every moral principle, you could not expect moral conduct from him. How can these so-called Evangelicals support him when they believe the proper marriage is between a man and a woman. They're against divorce. They're against multiple marriages. Trump has had multiple marriages. I suppose they're against sexual assault. Trump is a self-confessed sexual predator. He boasted about it. Talked about how you can grab women's genitals. You can do anything you want to to them. Self-confessed and the Evangelicals support him. He ridiculed a man who was physically disabled and what used to be called deformed. Then after he did it and demonstrated it, he lied and said he hadn't done it. This man is an inveterate pathological liar. He is a demented, deranged, denier, denying his lies. He is a consummate falsifier. The Lincoln Journal Star is one of those papers which periodically will point out the statements that Trump made which are untrue. Some weeks ago The Washington Post documented over 100 specific lies that this man had told. Then when people come to him, children who survive a killing at the hands of a person with one of the kinds of weapons that Pete Ricketts wants the NRA to come to Nebraska and promote, the parents who lost these children, and what is Trump's response? Build more mental institutions and arm teachers. What could be more insane than that? If you have an epidemic of malaria spread by mosquitoes, is the cure for malaria the introduction of more malaria-bearing mosquitoes? That is insane. But Trump is in the employ of the NRA. He will say nothing that they disapprove of. After he had said the first day that he spoke that teachers should be armed, there was such a negative blowback, he denied having said it. Denied having said what he tweeted and what he bragged about. Then when the blowback came, he says, well, I didn't mean arm teachers, I meant arm adept teachers, those who are capable of handling firearms and my denial was based on people misunderstanding what my words clearly said. What kind of craziness is that? What kind of an example is it for the young people and the children in schools? Lying is the way to go. Sexually grabbing girls is the thing to do. The President is the example and we lead by example. Our children are entitled to see us as the ones who are morally straight,

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intellectually alert, and willing to follow the principles that we say we live by. So let us assume that Mr. Trump is such an individual. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What are the principles he lives by? Grabbing a woman's privates, lying, degrading, and ridiculing people who have a physical impairment, arming teachers. And your Governor is inviting the NRA to come here. He ought to talk to the directors of the First National Bank which is the largest privately-owned bank in the country based on my understanding. They terminated a contract they had with the NRA to issue their credit cards. They terminated it. Other smaller entities have done so. PayPal is one of them. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Returning to debate, Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. There was a young man named Timothy McVeigh and he was executed May 16, 2001. Before he was executed by the federal government, I wrote a column for the Omaha Star, a newspaper for which I had written over 100 articles. We had a parting of the ways after several hundred articles due to what you might call artistic, editorial, or content differences. But this article appeared in the Omaha Star April 26, 2001, which would have been three weeks before the scheduled execution of Timothy McVeigh. The heading is, The Triumphant Laughing Ghost of Timothy McVeigh. It seems that something in the psyche of people who do spectacular, shocking, or horrendous things impels them to explain their deed or conduct. They seem to have a profound need to be understood. That is to say, they want people to grasp why they did whatever they did and to see the underlying reasons for it. They need to lay out in detail the justification. Their aim seems to be to win over to their side as many minds as possible. Yet, as contradictory as it may be, they simultaneously manifest a type of ego-shielding bravado which proclaims, I really don't care what anybody thinks or how they feel. But really, it seems they do. Given the opportunity and having the ability, they very painstakingly and meticulously break down the matter into tiny segments which are carefully analyzed and explained. Either they write the story with their own hand or commit the task to someone they trust to present it, quote, the way they tell it, unquote, rather than someone who may interpret or pritifly the account for self-serving or career-advancing purposes. What about Timothy McVeigh? Since McVeigh knows that he will have very little time left on this earth after publication of his story, he obviously has no interest in financial gain. Fame or acclaim? He'll not

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be around to bask in or enjoy such. Remembrance and perhaps even veneration? That may be cutting close to the bone, for as a hillbilly song wales, quote, the sweetest meat is closest to the bone, and to continue, McVeigh will be gone soon but definitely not forgotten. I think he wanted a foretaste. There's probably no chance of an aftertaste for him of the nature of the legacy that will survive his high-profile, world-stopping execution at the hands of the government of the USA. He may realize that like Jesus and Hitler, he will be a far more powerful force in death than in life. He will, of course, be reviled and excoriated as well as admired and worshipped. A demon to some, an avenging martyr to others. Death magnifies all. The government of the USA in its blundering way, driven by terrific dread and fear of McVeigh has contrived to elevate a slaughter of innocence into a towering never to be forgotten icon. An example of heroic resistance... [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to governmental oppression to be emulated, not a cowardly sneak murderer who fled the scene of his unspeakable crime in a frantic effort to escape the consequences of his horrific deed. His cool, self-possession in spitting in the face of death has moved many to admiration. When Christ was executed and his body entombed, when Hitler's brains were blown out and his body incinerated, both men's life, though moving in opposition directions, took on a life of their own and the shadow cast by each across history swamped in magnitude the earthly existence of both men. The precedent will hold for McVeigh, and I'll continue when I'm recognized. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator, seeing no one else in the queue, this is your closing. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing. When the government of the USA, pursuing its own kill policy, pumps poison into the body of McVeigh on May 16, 2001, his biological life will be extinguished. However, the only thing left strapped to the macabre gurney will be a corpse. What will be resurrected from that grisly death chamber will be a presence, a force which will stride through the land in seven-league boots, worldwide. May 16 will belong to Timothy McVeigh. McVeigh's ode. That was a takeoff on Nero who chanted an ode from a tower while Rome burned. Timothy McVeigh chanted his ode many months after he torched the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995. As a man who seems to relish military symbolism, McVeigh may have chosen the month of April for his attack because April is the month throughout history when armies sallied forth to commence and/or terminate military campaigns. Check it out. His ode was chanted in the recently released book, American Terrorist: Timothy McVeigh and the Tragedy At Oklahoma City Bombing. It was co-authored by Lou Michel and Dan Herbeck. The word "massacre" should be substituted for "bombing." Predictably, his ode has generated a complex mixture of powerful emotions that can only give

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McVeigh a sense of accomplishment and a feeling of deep satisfaction, anger, disgust, fury, contempt, hatred, curiosity, bafflement, incomprehension, foreboding. Perhaps, the overriding visceral reaction is a type of impotent anger and frustration at his stolid refusal to express remorse or even a shred of regret or to tender an apology. The man is ice and has spun around himself an impregnable cocoon. Each emotion-charged outburst against him, each additional precaution the government feels compelled to take to try to minimize his significance is merely another needle sunk deep into the hide of his enemies. They hurt him not. They hurt him not at all. They bear him up and strengthen his resolve to die on his own terms in the manner of his choosing. He cannot lose in this ghastly game of government-inflicted death. He holds the winning hand. McVeigh knows that such deep-rooted visceral emotion will not soon dissipate. No, they will fester and thrive and fuel debate for decades, even generations, generations to come. After all, his is the first federal execution in nearly 40 years. And it will be accompanied by unbelievable official pomp and circumstance. Timothy McVeigh certainly will not be forgotten any time soon. To some he will not even be gone. Consider the silly geese who think that Elvis still lives. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: He can die with a song in his heart. I've got more time to spend on Senator Hughes's bill, so this one minute I have, I won't spend reading. I want to be able to read without being interrupted. So I will say this to all of you all. When you can watch children slaughtered in school and you've got a Governor sitting over there saying bring the murderous organization to this state because you simple-minded, murder-supporting people love the NRA. That shows the contempt he has for you. I want people to know there's at least one person here who does not worship the NRA, who does not fear the NRA, who does not like the Governor, who does not respect the Governor, who has no fear of the Governor and will tell the Governor, do your worst. He's a little man. The only difference between him and... [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator, we are already on call of the house. So would, please, everyone check-in, return to your desks and check in? Senators, please return to your desk. We are still under call. Senator Smith, could you check in? Senator Schumacher, would you check in, please? Senator Chambers, would you check in? Senator Halloran, would you check in, please? Senator Vargas. Senator Stinner, would you please check in? Senator Morfeld, would you please return to your desk? Senator Morfeld, please return to the floor and to your desk, we are still under call. All present and accounted for. The question is before us to strike enacting clause. All

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those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB275]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 0 ayes, 42 nays, on the motion to return the bill, Mr. President. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: The motion fails. Mr. Clerk. [LB275]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers has moved to reconsider the vote to return the bill to strike the enacting clause. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. As specified on the agenda, that is a specific amendment. LB275 will fall to the bottom with that amendment, and we will move to LB758. Mr. Clerk. [LB275 LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, next bill, LB758, Senator Chambers would move to return the bill to Select File for purposes of striking the enacting clause. (FA107, Legislative Journal page 740.) [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I want Senator Hughes to know that unlike what he did to me, I'm not trying to kill his bills. And if it had been a situation where the bills would die or maybe not have a chance to be read, then I wouldn't have proceeded the way that I'm doing. I had placed amendments on other bills on Final Reading a day prior to this one. And when any kind of motion, I think it may have been that far, or that encompassing would lead a bill not to be read, I took all of my proposed amendments off those bills. I have not shown you what I can do and what I will do if you reach deeply enough inside of me to reach a streak of vindictiveness that I'm sure rests in all of us. There was a song called "Hogi Baba" and it does not talk about a vindictiveness, it talks about love. But by analogy, deep in any soul carefully hidden is a desire to be indiscreet. Hogi has said when love is forbidden, love is so sweet, love is so sweet. When you allow yourself to give in to that vindictive urge, then it is an enjoyable time, I've been told. But so far, nothing has happened here to cause me to feel vindictive. Now, I am getting even. I'm attempting to get even. What makes it enjoyable for me is that all of you get to take this journey with me, especially on Final Reading. You've got to be somewhere near the Chamber. And I'm showing you what following the leader has produced. We're getting down to the posterior portions of this legislative session. Today...and I can mark the days by the number of the handouts I give you. This is the 32nd day. That puts us into the final half. And I'm going to do what I have been provoked into doing. Senator Hughes wants to play to his base wherever he

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came from, I don't know what city he lives in, and he played to them. But sometimes there's a price to pay. If you dance to the devil's tune, the devil is going to make you pay the cost of his having performed for your entertainment, enjoyment, and delight. And in the same way that some people who foolishly do things sing a different tune, those who foolishly enlist the devil's help in their dance so he will play, will find that they dance a different dance when he says, now you've got to pay. You all don't read things. You don't even read bills. But if you read The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus, by Christopher Marlowe, you would see the best rendition of that tale of selling one's soul to the devil in exchange. Not selling it, say bartering and trading in exchange for a period of time when any wish that you have will be granted. Well, this isn't as bad as that. All you all might lose is a little time, maybe a bill or two. What I'm talking about this morning, going back to it, is the loss of something much more precious than any bills, even if it's not the life of the children in the schools in Nebraska. Something has been set afoot in this state. I saw on the news where over 30 examples of threats made against schools having been investigated by the Omaha police. It has given certain young people, and maybe older ones are doing it, but the ones they've caught are kids. Another tool to beat people with, in the way that children thoughtlessly, not realizing the seriousness of what they're doing, it has given them that stick to beat the public schools, the private schools, and maybe even home schools, because that Lanza fellow who did some killing, killed his mama first, killed his mama in their home, and she was the one who loved guns. And maybe Lanza, her son said, thou shalt have no lovers before me, and since you love the gun more than you love me, I'm going to take your lover and turn your lover against you. Then I'm going to take that which you love and punish others. Oh, you all...I'm not talking about Mario Lanza, the singer, the tenor. There have been a number of slaughterers produced by this country and before I stray too far from what I was reading, because I want it a matter of record for generations yet to come. Analogizing to Timothy McVeigh, so that people who no longer are in this Legislature, but turned to dust...by the way, I have to digress. George Washington had died and been buried. An Englishman had come to this country, and they were talking about George Washington. And one American, showing his brilliance, the better education than anybody in the world gets anywhere else, talked about where the ashes of George Washington reposed. See, important people repose. Ordinary presidents lie in state. Billy Graham reposes. He'll repose for two days so that people can look at his carcass. Jesus said, let the dead bury the dead. Show some respect. Show some decency. He's on display, he is a spectacle. He said that you all should remember him as a servant of God. That's what he said for you Christians to do. You don't even honor his last wish. So you're going to put his corpse out there and look at, maybe some people when nobody is looking at it, will spit on him. You don't know what leads people to join in those macabre, insane ceremonies and worship services, worshipping a corpse. But after I'm gone, let the cheering subside, I'm not gone yet. One time I said that, and they called some agency in Nebraska because they said, we have registered on our Richter scale out here in California, whatever the number is, stage four earthquake or tremor in the middle of Nebraska. What's going on out there? And the Governor, the then Governor called, he said, well, it was just announced that Senator Chambers will be term limited out of the

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Legislature and there was so much joy throughout the state that that's how it was reflected, as though that bothers me. I've outlived a lot of the people who hate me already, and they hate me so much, I'll probably outlive some of you all. Kids in here, compared to me. What are you going to think when you're on your deathbed and you say, well, that Chambers is still alive. I told you all why I'm living. If white people hadn't messed with me like they did, I would have died 10 or 12 years ago. But you wouldn't leave me alone. I couldn't even die in peace. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So now I live on to spite my enemies. Every time you see me breathing, hear me talking, see me walking, all of that is to spite my enemies. That's why at 80 years old, I don't get tired. I can think, to a certain extent. My memory is probably as good as most people's in here. So you see what spite can do? Know your enemy. Know that what you're putting on your enemy is going to hurt him more than it will hurt you. That didn't happen in my case. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You're next in the queue and you're recognized. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now I have to go back to my reading because the time will get away from me. Here's even a bigger one of those. The NRA, the nation's largest gun lobby, has faced harsh criticism since last week's mass shooting at a high school in Parkland, Florida, where 17 people were killed, including students. Dwaine Caraway, Mayor Pro Tem of Dallas said the NRA has a responsibility "to address the madness now" and he called on the group to help establish better gun laws, according to a report by "ABC World News Tonight" that Ricketts shared on his Twitter account. And that's where Governor Ricketts sent out the call to NRA. Come to our state, we've got too many kids anyway. Although I'm against abortion, these women still having too many babies. Really, I wish they all abort. They're a drain on the treasury. Their parents are sick. Single woman can't get a job and make any money, so she's on ADC. They have to go to the Nutrition Supplement Program. Get them out of here. I believe what Jonathan Swift believed when he's talking about the Irish, pestiferous people. The thing to do and solve two problems at one time is to attack hunger in some places, to cater to the exotic tastes of the rich in others, and to reduce the surplus population by cooking Irish children, boiling, frying, fricassee, roasting, baking, and he called it a modest proposal. That's the Governor, your Governor. He wants the organization that is pushing the kind of attitude that will result in the killing of children in the schools in Nebraska. And then when it comes to education per se, he wants to cut aid to the university, because if the young people learn how to think, then when they get 18, they might vote, as intelligent people should. Going back to what I was wanting to get into the record. At the hour of his death...I used to hear on the radio all the time, Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord

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is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, and to be with us at the hour of our death. Temor mortas contor mata may. You know what that translates to? The fear of death is upon me. Not McVeigh. Not McVeigh. At the hour of his death, McVeigh will not crack. He has invested too much time, energy, planning, and thought into how he shall shuffle off this mortal coil. And he has managed masterfully to draw the whole world into the play. He has managed to create a set of circumstances in which the government of the USA, and many groups and individuals who complain about the amount of publicity he is receiving, all contribute to that very publicity by endlessly giving public vent to their feelings and opinions. Like it or not, Timothy McVeigh and his execution are a happening. If it is indeed a circus, he is the ringmaster. If it is a show, he is the producer/director, the laughing ghost. Timothy McVeigh's laughing ghost will take great delight in his triumph over the government of the USA and his assorted enemies. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I repeat, he will not crack. As his life is wrested from his body, why will he not crack? He has convinced himself that for this purpose came he into the world. He will die better than did Christ, who although well-aware of his job, begged, let this cup pass from me, then cried out during his execution, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me. No wavering or crying out by McVeigh. And his haters will be infuriated thereby. Who will have won? McVeigh's ghost may be able to stop laughing long enough to thank the government of the USA without whose help he would have been consigned to the ranks of those demented loonies who might be mentioned from time to time when great crimes are brought up. But he never would have assumed the status, the stature and looming magnitude which inevitably will be bestowed... [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator. Time, Senator. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you are next in the queue. This is your third time, your next will be your close. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, I have this time, then close? [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Correct. [LB758]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. But he never would have assumed the stature and magnitude, which inevitably will be bestowed by his martyrdom at the bloody hands of the government of the USA, which itself is implicated in horrendous crimes at home and abroad, on land, sea and in the air, during war and peace. As a black man, I harbor many bitter memories of brutal atrocities against mine own people perpetrated by the government of the USA and its agents. The government's hands are far from clean. If one applies Jesus' rule that stones are to be cast only by those without sin, the government of the USA could not execute Timothy McVeigh. Yet, I take no pleasure in the terrible deed that McVeigh committed. Why not? He did not strike at the government. He surreptitiously, like a sneak thief, attacked unsuspecting, unoffending civilians, including babes and children. With all of his brave posturing and cold talk about military jargon, McVeigh violated a cardinal principle of "civilized warfare." I know that's an oxymoron. Civilian targets and noncombatant civilians are off limits. Therefore, had he done his deed even in the context of a war, it would qualify as a war crime and he as a war criminal. Even in war, there are lines which are not to be crossed. McVeigh obliterated those lines, execution protocol. The process and procedures involved in state killing are macabre and dehumanizing to all who participate, the official killers, as well as the condemned prisoner. Having spent considerable time during their last days with the three men executed in Nebraska, I had the chance to observe everything and everybody. I did not witness an execution itself, but I accompanied two of the men into the death chamber because they desired that I do so, and to make sure that nothing in the way of inappropriate conduct was engaged in by the state killers. The entire ritual was nauseating. In McVeigh's case, the government of the USA has produced a 54-page "execution protocol" designed to script, step by baby step the killing of the condemned man. The script writers covered his last meal, his last words, and the disposition of his corpse following the procedure. Because of the possibility of protests that maybe get out of hand, including the remote possibility of protests that may be attempted as a cover for a break-in/break-out to rescue McVeigh, a special command center will be set up inside the prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, where the festivities will unfold. There's even the fear in official circles that a copycat act of bombing may be unleashed by antigovernment lunatics or deranged sympathizers of McVeigh. Bearing out what I said above in connection with Nebraska executions, the protocol warns the staff... [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...of killers to "prevent emotion or intimidation from hindering efforts to carry out assigned duties." The official killers are instructed to "conduct themselves at all times in a manner reflecting the solemnity and sensitivity of this occasion." That's a laugh. The occasion simply is one of the government imitating the murderer. As in Nebraska...and I will stop here and resume when I'm recognized to close. [LB758]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Chambers, there is no one else wishing to speak, you're welcome to close. [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm meditating what my next move should be. Should I offer the kind of amendment or motion...? I've got to do something. And I'm aware my time is running, Mr. President. Had I been able to finish, I wouldn't have to make another motion, but I've got to get all of this done. For this purpose, came I to the Legislature today. Continuing. As in Nebraska, and probably every state which officially, ceremonially, and ritualistically kills people, the protocol establishes a "countdown period," similar to that associated with launching a spacecraft. In addition to selecting "the chosen ones" who will be privileged to watch the procedure up close and personal through a window in the wall of the death chamber, the warden will select the official poisoners and their alternates in case anyone of them experiences a failure of nerve or an attack of humanity. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The question before us is the adoption of FA107 to strike the enacting clause in LB758E. All those in favor, please vote aye; all those opposed... [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'd like us to check in and then I want a roll call vote. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Would all of the senators please return to their desks and check in. Senator Kolterman, would you check in, please?. Senator Howard, Senator Vargas. Senator Kolterman, would you please check in? Senator Briese, would you please return to your desk? The question before us is adoption of FA107. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. I'm sorry, did you ask for a roll call? [LB758]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, thank you. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Okay. Mr. Clerk. [LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal pages 740-741.) The vote is 0 ayes, 41 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to return. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Motion fails. Mr. Clerk. [LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the motion to return. [LB758]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: As a specific amendment has been filed, this will, again, move to the bottom. We will move to LB17. Mr. Clerk. [LB758 LB17]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB17, Senator Erdman would move to return the bill to Select File for specific amendment; that amendment is AM1528. (Legislative Journal page 517.) [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: As a specific amendment has been filed, we will move that down to the bottom of the list as well. We will move to LB310. [LB17 LB310]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, on LB310, Senator Harr had a motion AM1877. Senator Harr, I have a note that you wish to withdraw that. (Read LB310 on Final Reading.) [LB310]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB310 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB310]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 741-742.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 4 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB310]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB310 passes. We'll now proceed to LB350. [LB310 LB350]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB350, Senator Murante would move to return the bill for specific amendment, AM1697. (Legislative Journal page 588.) [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: As noted as a specific amendment, we'll push it to the bottom of those already at the bottom of the agenda. We will move back up to LB275. Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on your reconsideration motion. [LB350 LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I don't...if I kill a bill, I don't want it to be by accident. My intent today is not to kill any bills, but I'm going to finish reading what I want into the record. If I get that accomplished on this reconsideration motion, then whatever else I have pending I will withdraw. I shouldn't tell you that, especially should I not tell it to Senator Hughes. I should let him sweat a while, but my intent is not to just make him sweat, my intent is to get some things into the record because I think what's happening in the country and the schools is very troubling, very critical, and some things ought to be placed in the record for people to consider if they want to, to see that when they take inappropriate action that might give

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them a good feeling, they have done more harm than good. If you know anything about dandelions, you know that they come out...they produce a yellow flower, then if you leave them long enough they get...it turns gray or white like the hair on my head. And anything that hits it, a wind or anything else, will spread those little seeds. Each one has a little parachute and you spread that one dandelion wherever those seeds go. So McVeigh was like a weed. I wouldn't compare him to any specific weed, but by analogy. It was like a dandelion. When they cut down McVeigh, they magnified and increased the problem exponentially. But let me finish this. A few days before the great event, the volunteers will commence intensive rehearsals and law enforcement contingents, federal, state, and local will pore over security measures and embark on joint training exercises just in case. In view of all of this official high level activity, how can a man of McVeigh's makeup be anything other than pleased with what he has wrought. Glory awaits him, and he can see its prelude unfolding satisfactorily. Within his final 72 hours on earth, the condemned prisoner will be transferred by van. He probably would volunteer to walk, very slowly, from the death row to a holding cell in the two-story execution house just west of the main prison. No TV, writing materials, pictures, or other humanizing features will be allowed. After all, this man is marked for death. And at a time like this, human consolation of any kind is verboten. When 24 hours of life remain, telephone privileges end, but tests will be run to ensure that phone lines are working just in case. With four hours to go, a so-called maintenance response team will assemble. McVeigh will be offered his last supper. Dying on an empty stomach may be hazardous to one's health. Semi-lockdown will be imposed at the prison to guard against prisoner unrest. The command center will come on line. The final countdown starts and soon thereafter Timothy McVeigh will keep his appointment with destiny and will pass into personal oblivion, but his laughing ghost will be liberated to roam free. How many souls will it gleefully possess? The winner, Timothy McVeigh. All moralizing and righteous indignation aside, McVeigh clearly has won. He is the talk, not only of the town, but of the whole world. Some view him as a martyr and his act as justified. He has brought the government of the USA to its knees, and then immortalized in a book. The world will hold its breath in pregnant expectation at the hour of his death. Having terminated all appeals, he has forced the U.S. government to kill him on his terms, not its. He will become an instant TV sensation in a U.S. government-sponsored thriller, commanding the rapt attention of a closed-circuit blood-lusting mob gotten up by the government. They will be beside themselves with fury as their prey robs them of their hope for pleasure by dying like a soldier without whimper or apology. Reporters will scramble to outdo each other in chronicling each lurid drip by poisonous drip facet of the government sponsored festivities. A Pulitzer prize may be lurking in there somewhere and the competition will be keen. In Terre Haute where he will breathe his last before being liberated and enshrined, schools will be closed. Extraordinary security measures will be implemented and life will be disrupted. McVeigh is the center of the death universe and in total control of the minds and emotions of his haters, and of the U.S. government. He will die less like Jesus, who cried out in anguish during his execution on the cross, and more like St. Stephen, who according to the "Bible," simply "fell asleep" when he was executed under a hail of stones cast by religious

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people of God. His body, of a certainty, will die. But McVeigh's laughing ghost will haunt this land for many, many moons. I, eight years later, wrote another column, July 2, 2009, and it was on the occasion of Michael Jackson dying, and I used the theme of a person becoming bigger in death than that person was in life. I won't read all of that. But I explained in this article what I was doing. The headline was "Michael Jackson, Jesus, Hitler, Timothy McVeigh, Death Enhances." But to you all's shock and amazement, on May 16, 2001, the day that McVeigh was due to be executed, I stood on the floor of the Legislature as I'm doing today and this is what the transcript reports that I said: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, what I want to do is put some things in the record that I think must be put there. When you have a man like Timothy McVeigh, who ultimately was executed by the U.S. government for bombing the federal building in Oklahoma, much can be learned if we will allow ourselves to be taught. There are two men whose names I can give who became much bigger in death than they were in life. Hitler is one, Jesus is the other. Both of them after death cast a huge shadow over history. McVeigh is not stupid. He might be crazy in a sense, but I think he knew what he was doing. I think he planned to do it and he carried it out. If everybody was as successful in carrying out what they propose to do as he was, the world would be nothing like it is now. I don't know whether that would be for the better or for the worse. Hostage taking--Francis Bacon had said words to the effect that a man who marries and has a family gives hostages to fate. He can do neither the amount of good nor evil that he would do otherwise. Well, what McVeigh did was to hold the world hostage in a way, because there is a fascination people feel toward him. What he did was so "unthinkable" is the way it's described. It's not unthinkable. It's not really surprising. Things which might be shocking are not necessarily surprising. He was scheduled to be produced by this country. He or somebody with a different name, but who was just like him. This country produces people like Timothy McVeigh. Fortunately for the country, not everybody will act on what they feel and the way that McVeigh did. This is what I said in 2001, some years ago. This is 2018, almost 20 years ago. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And in that period, several McVeighs have come across the stage. Not being a fool, McVeigh probably has read about Jesus or at least he probably heard about him, read about Hitler, or knows about him. And knows that both of those men, after they were dead, took on far more significance...I'm going to stop here and turn on my light. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Returning to debate, Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Picking up where I left off. McVeigh is not stupid. He might be crazy, in a sense, but I think he knew what he was doing and so forth. Then I

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mentioned where Francis Bacon said, a man who marries gives hostages to fate. Continuing: What McVeigh did was to hold the whole world hostage in a way because there's a fascination people feel toward him. What he did was so unthinkable is the way it's described. It's not unthinkable, it's not really surprising. Things which might be shocking are not necessarily surprising. He was scheduled to be produced by this country, as I read already. Dropping down farther into the article. Not being a fool, McVeigh probably did read about Jesus and Hitler. And he knew that both of those men gained more stature after death than they had in life. The name, the same he feels, will happen to his case because he's a martyr to some. No fear of death. He is a man who is going to lose his life for his faith, if he decides to die. Hitler had to die. Jesus came here to die. So he really had no choice in the matter if the story is true, if there was a Jesus. However, for my purpose, say there was. Timothy McVeigh doesn't have to die if there is a way around it. If there had been no blundering by the FBI, today would be his last day on this earth. But the FBI spared him, if McVeigh chose to be spared, which he didn't. Death's jaws were yawning, the fangs were dripping. There was anticipation, just like when you're very hungry, and you think about dill pickles and feel that drawing at the root of your tongue. That's the way death was. And it could only be satisfied by closing its fangs on Timothy McVeigh and claiming him. But even death, after having been infuriated by McVeigh not being afraid, also lost its hold on McVeigh. People get angry because he might be laughing. Well, for heavens sake, for goodness sake, brothers and sisters, if you're going to kill a man, shouldn't he be able to do what he wants to do? What more can you do to him. Point, counterpoint. You say, I don't want you to laugh. He says, make me stop laughing. You say, the only way we could stop you from laughing, I guess is to put an iron mask on your face. He says, why won't you do that? Well, you say, the constitution won't let us do that. He says, what do you mean? You say, that would be considered cruel and unusual punishment. So McVeigh throws his head back and laughs again and says, you cannot do the lesser thing, but you can do the greater thing? You say, well, what do you mean by that, McVeigh? Quote from McVeigh, you cannot put a metal mask on my face because that is cruel, but you can put needles in my arm and pump poison into me. You can do the poisoning but you can't do the masking. Americans are as they are because they are schizophrenic and will say, I don't want to talk about it. You don't understand. Yeah, McVeigh understands better than these people and he's in position to tell it the way he sees it. The one thing that this country is able to use, in most cases to intimidate people, is the threat of taking the person's life. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's why they say, hands up or I'll shoot. All the movies say that. Even little kids know that. Stick them up or I'll blow you away. What they're really saying is you probably want your life more than anything else and if you don't do what I want you to do, I'll take your life. So that's what they tell McVeigh. And he says, so what? Then America is thrown into confusion because since the only way they know how to deal with a person is through violence or the threat of it, when that doesn't work, America has nothing else. That's why if you

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stand up to a bully you put the bully into confusion, because the bully is used to having his way by threatening people, putting them in fear and most people fold. But McVeigh has not yet folded. And like everybody else, I'm curious to see how he's going to play his next move. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: But you are the next in the queue, you're recognized. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I'm curious to see how he's going to play his next move in this chess game of death. He'll lose his life if things go the way America wants. There are some people who fear death more than they fear dying. There are people faced with death and they'll commit suicide because they're afraid of death, but not afraid of dying. It seems not to make sense, but that's the way human beings are. Well, McVeigh is not afraid of death the way America wants him to be. They feel cheated. On the other hand, maybe if you could look inside of McVeigh you'd see innards that are like jelly. He could be terrified, but he could have enough self-control from his training as a soldier or as a kid, because he was not very popular and not thought to be very nice looking when he was little, from what I've read. Maybe he has learned how to control his outer appearance so that he looks calm when he's not. He looks brave, when he isn't. He can show bravado when he's terrified. But in any case, America is not getting much satisfaction because he will not show fear. I have an article now that I did not write, but it's dated August 19, 2017, and the headline is, "Admiration of McVeigh Grows Among Radical Right." I predicted that in 2001, before they killed him and reaffirmed it, nine years later. This is a reprint from the Tulsa World and the Omaha World-Herald dated Saturday, August 19, 2017. When a 23-year-old man parked a van loaded with what he believed were explosives in an alley adjacent to an Oklahoma City bank last weekend, court documents indicate he thought it would send a message similar to the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The "bomb" never exploded because the van was purposely loaded with inert material. Jerry Drake Varnell of Sayre, Oklahoma, unwittingly plotted and executed the entire scheme with the help of the FBI. The would-be attack was the first legitimate attempt in Oklahoma to recreate in some way the 1995 bombing that killed 168, including 19 children and wounded hundreds of others. Oklahoma FBI spokesman Jessica Rice said, yet, Barnell's case is not necessarily unique. He is the most recent in a series of extremists who have venerated or otherwise showed interest in Timothy McVeigh according to a recent report from the Southern Poverty Law Center. McVeigh, an anti-government militant, was convicted of bombing the Oklahoma City federal building and was put to death in 2001. One admirer of McVeigh is Jeremy Christian, appropriate last name, who was harassing two women who appeared to be Muslims in Portland, Oregon, in May. And he killed

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two men who came to their aid. In a Facebook post, April 19, the month before the bloody attack, Christian wrote, "May all the Gods bless Timothy McVeigh--a TRUE PATRIOT!!!" [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And when he said may all the Gods bless Timothy McVeigh, he had reference to a poem that McVeigh quoted "Invictus." Veneration for McVeigh is not new, but as the white nationalist movement grows, experts are noting an increase in the hail McVeigh subset of extremists, said Mark Potok, an expert on the radical right with 20 years of experience at the Law Center. I will stop now and then close. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There is no one else in the queue, you are welcome to close. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I can finish what I have to read this time and I will withdraw what I have pending on this bill and withdraw what I have pending on the subsequent bill. Before Barnell's arrest, there had been four incidents of extremists with some kind of tie to or interest in McVeigh this year and last year, the SPLC reported. The most recent was on June 9 when neo-Nazi Andrew R. Auernheimer, wrote a post on the white supremacist Web site, "Daily Stormer," pitching his idea for a "permanent monument to McVeigh. Think of it, a gigantic bronze statue of Timothy McVeigh poised triumphantly atop a Ryder truck, arms raised as if to form an Algiz rune from his body, with a plaque that states the honest truth", the man wrote, according to the Law Center. The Web site recently lost its domain from GoDaddy and Google after it hosted an article mocking Heather Heyer, an anti-racism protester killed by a car during a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia. Why McVeigh? Why now? As far as mass-murdering extremist idols go, McVeigh had a few apparently appealing characteristics, Potok said. For one he was smart and organized and he was not mentally ill, Potok said. He also represented a shift in extremist actions. Before the Oklahoma City bombing, terrorist incidents and their targets had been obviously connected. Members of the racist group Klu Klux Klan killed people who were registering African-Americans to vote. The left-wing communist-inspired Weathermen went after its own enemies, police, and government agencies, Potok said. McVeigh was different. That was the first time when we really saw these kinds of domestic terrorists saying, it's all about the body count. You said time? [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: I have 2:40. [LB275]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I'll be able to finish. McVeigh was different. That was the first time when we really saw these kinds of domestic terrorists saying, it's all about the body

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count, Potok said. In 2017, as white nationalist groups gain power and become more organized, the subset of extremist who idolize McVeigh is growing, too. Barnell's case is a good example of that, Potok said. In that handout I gave you all this morning, I analogized myself to Rodney Dangerfield in that I get no respect. These people don't respect me. They don't respect my mind. They don't respect what I know and I think it infuriates them that I can predict something 2001 and then it's coming to pass and I can read something that just happened last year, a few months ago, that demonstrates how much on the money I was. I'm not a fortuneteller. I'm not a prophet in that I can see the future. I know what is going on with white people in this society. I know what can be expected to be produced by this milieu and it is producing, it's bearing bitter fruit and you still won't listen. It's like Jesus said, they will not listen and believe though one came back from the dead. But I'm going to keep thumping at your hard heads and maybe, just maybe, I can make an inroad. Thank you, Mr. President, and I do withdraw that that's pending on this bill and what is pending of mine on the next bill. Thank you. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Without objection, so ordered. Colleagues, would you please take your seats? Senators, please return to your seats. Senator Stinner, would you please return to your seat. Mr. Clerk, LB275. [LB275]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB275 on Final Reading.) [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB275 pass? All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Record. [LB275]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 742-743.) Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB275]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB275 passes. We'll now proceed to LB758E. [LB275 LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, we are back to Senator Chambers' motion to reconsider, but I understand he wishes to withdraw that. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Without objection, so ordered. [LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB758 on Final Reading.) [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: All provisions of law relative to procedure have been complied with, the question is, shall LB758 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye;

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all those opposed vote nay. This will take 33 affirmative votes. Have all voted that wish to?
Please record. [LB758]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 743-744.) Vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 3 excused and not voting, Mr. President. [LB758]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB758E passes with the emergency clause attached. (Visitors introduced.) We'll proceed to LB17. [LB758 LB17]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, on LB17, Senator Erdman would move to return the bill to Select File for specific amendment; that amendment is AM1528. (Legislative Journal page 517.) [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Being request to return the bill to Select File. The question for us is, shall LB17 be returned to Select File? Senator Erdman, would you like to open before we vote? [LB17]

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. LB17 was a bill that I picked up when Senator Craighead left the body. Just a few refreshers on it. It was a clean-up bill that would get us into compliance with Title X of the federal registry of appraisers. If the bill is not amended, we stand a chance of losing any certified real estate appraisers who do transactions in the state of Nebraska after the first part of August. And so that was the intent of the bill, that is the intent. And what happened, because I didn't read it close enough or didn't look at the date specific, the bill was introduced in '17 and the bill referenced going into effect in the year of 2017. We are now in '18, so what the amendment does, AM1528, is just change the places in the bill where the date was January 1, '17 to January 1, '18 and a very important change on page 19, line 16, it places a comma. So that is what it does and I would appreciate your vote to return to Select File. Thank you. [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Erdman. (Visitors introduced.) Question before us is, shall the LB17 be returned to Select File? It takes 25 affirmative votes. All those in favor please vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. [LB17]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 46 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to return. [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: LB17 is returned to Select File. Returning to AM1528, are there any others that wish to speak? Seeing none, Senator Erdman, you're welcome to close. He waives

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closing. The question for us is the adoption of AM1528 to LB17. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record. [LB17]

ASSISTANT CLERK: 46 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President. [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: AM1528 is adopted to LB17. Senator Wishart. [LB17]

SENATOR WISHART: Mr. President, I move to advance LB17 to E&R for engrossing. [LB17]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. Been a long morning, guys. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed, nay. LB17 is advanced to E&R. Next item, LB350. [LB17 LB350]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Murante would move to return LB350 to Select File for specific amendment, AM1697. (Legislative Journal page 588.) [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Murante, you're welcome to open. [LB350]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President, members, good morning. This is what I believe to be a friendly and clarifying amendment and in a moment I will be yielding the balance of my time to Senator McCollister to discuss his thoughts on this. There was some confusion relative to what rights were restored if a sentence had been set aside pursuant to this bill. What this amendment does is clarify that the existing statute which deals with the restoration of voting rights is not impacted by LB350. It is my...in conversation with Senator McCollister, it was not his understanding to change that process, but AM1697 is a clarifying amendment to ensure that it does not change the process which currently exists in state law. And with that, I will yield the remainder of my time to Senator McCollister. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator McCollister, 9:00. [LB350]

SENATOR MCCOLLISTER: Thank you, Senator Murante, and I do deem this to be a friendly amendment. Perhaps unnecessary, but to make abundantly clear that we are restoring a person's voting rights with a set-aside. I'm happy to accommodate the senator. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator McCollister and Senator Murante. Senator Krist, you're recognized. [LB350]

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SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraska. I wonder if Senator Murante would yield to a question, please? [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator Murante, would you yield, please? [LB350]

SENATOR MURANTE: Yes. [LB350]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you for your courtesy. So if I understand the amendment, without the amendment voting rights would be restored upon release? [LB350]

SENATOR MURANTE: No, so the bill deals with applying for set-asides. There is existing statute that if a set-aside exists, that a judge--and I'll quote it directly here--a court may grant the offender's petition and the order shall--and this is on page 3, line 13--remove all civil disabilities and disqualification imposed as a result of the conviction. One of those, of course, is voting rights. So it was unclear as to whether this...the bill as it exists on Final Reading unamended deals with that, but I believe the amendment clarifies that it does not. [LB350]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Senator Murante. Colleagues, paying particular attention to the restoration of voting rights for those that have paid their dues and have been released having paid their dues from the prison system, I know that you...or incarceration of any kind, I know that you have heard these bills before and with Senator Wayne not being here today, I felt compelled to get up and at least make mention of the fact that I believe you should take this item up in the near future. I've always been a proponent of restoring voting rights as soon as possible. I'll be voting against this amendment simply because my point is that when you have paid your dues and you have come out from a system, you should have your voting rights restored. I will support the underlying LB350. Food for thought in the future, remember some of those folks are penalized for several years...several years, not being able to vote. And I think that's wrong. Thank you, colleagues, for listening. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Krist and Senator Murante. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I've addressed critical words toward Senator Murante in the past. This presentation is not designed to do that, but I am wondering why with all of the evidence that Russia is going to tamper with the upcoming election, they have evidence that Russia did access voting equipment in various states, they weren't just going after the federal government. Senator Murante and the Republican Party in this state have said nothing about that because their leader, Donald Trump, wants to pretend Russia is the good guy

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and no criticism of Russia is allowed. I think there is much more hazard to the integrity of the voting system or structure in this state from that kind of activity than from people going through all the trouble of voting when they're not eligible to vote. That is strictly a racist maneuver. The people in Kansas and Missouri and down South who brought it did it for racist purposes and I have to believe that if Senator Murante had lived at the time, he would be in favor of poll taxes for black people, denying black people the right to vote. What they call literacy tests. But in the South they knew there were a lot of ignorant white people who didn't go to school, so that's where the grandfather clause first was originated. If your grandfather voted in an election way back whenever they set the date, then you are entitled to ride your grandfather's coattails and you don't have to be able to read or do any of the things that the literacy test requires of black people because at the date set for the grandfather's voting, black people were denied the right to vote. So like they always do, they look after their own. But Senator Murante doesn't realize he's not one of their own. There are laws that impacted all people who are not white, Anglo-Saxon Protestants. So if you came from one of those dark-tinged countries like Italy, Sicily, I don't know if Senator Murante ever got over what Hannibal did those many decades, generations ago in Italy. Hannibal did as Napoleon said, he conceived the inconceivable and he executed the impossible and was deemed one of the greatest generals who ever lived. He crossed the Alps with elephants. He used elephants and crossed the Alps, something unheard of, unimagined in military circles. And he wreaked havoc toward Italy. He occupied the terrain for about 14 years and some people never got over it. So my forebears who did something that Senator Murante's forebears may not have liked results in Senator Murante trying to punish me and mine on behalf of the white racists in the South, Donald Trump, that fool in Kansas, and he can do the dirty work. But when you try to deprive my people of a basic right, you think I'm going to play with kid gloves? He's going to go for a higher office and this will help him. I did against black people what nobody else can do. What kind of man would I be... [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...knowing how he is consistently trying to deprive black people of the right to vote? But in these days, it has to impact some white people, too. But he say, well, they all got to go when the wagon come because he's going to ride a wagon out of the Legislature to a different office. And since this matter is before us, I'm going to speak on it a couple more times. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Morfeld, you're recognized. [LB350]

SENATOR MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I rise in opposition to the amendment and in support of the bill. The underlying bill is good and sound. It's been well-

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vetted. Obviously, many of us have overwhelmingly supported and I think we should advance it. I'll support the bill regardless of whether the amendment is attached, but I think it's important to note the history of denying felons the right to vote. That only happened after black people were given the right to vote after the Civil War. After they were given the right to vote after the Civil War, they realized that they were exercising political power and perhaps too much political power. So then suddenly they started to create and enforce laws that in particular put black people not only in prison, but then put them into a life of servitude building roads, building infrastructure projects. And then adding insult to injury, they then decided, well, once they've served their time, we'll ban them from voting for a lifetime. That is where these laws come from. That's where our current two-year ban originates from. Now, ten years ago we decided to make it so that people could vote after two years of serving their sentence and probation and everything that stemmed from that from a lifetime. But we still have work to do and quite frankly, if somebody is determined to have served their sentence, served their time to their society, they should be full citizens when it comes to all of their rights, including the right to vote. One of the problems that we have with recidivism is the fact that people do not feel as though they are full members of our society. They are marginalized. They're marginalized not only when it comes to work and being able to be productive members of our society, they're then marginalized with fundamental rights, a right that is enshrined in Article I, Section 22 of our own state Constitution and that's the right to vote. Now, I wasn't aware of this maybe incidental consequence that could or could not exist under the bill, but I think it's important to highlight that the two-year ban on voting that we have right now is unacceptable. We came very close, obviously, last year in removing that ban and it was vetoed by the Governor, as many of you remember and we were unable to overcome that. But we still have unfinished business to do and while I will oppose this amendment, I will support the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Morfeld. Senator Chambers, you're recognized. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. My colleague, Senator Brasch, says a lot about teaching American history, but I'm sure she doesn't have in mind the horrendous things that were done to my people by white people in this country. I read the paper and I don't know whether I read it correctly, but somebody was talking about using Martin Luther King's birthday and Indian recognition day to teach Americanism and patriotism. That is insane. It is insulting. It shows how insensitive the people are in this Legislature. Have you all heard of Al Capone "Caponay"? Gambino? Valachi? All those people with letters...names that end in vowels, mobsters. You never heard anybody saying those who have relatives or their kind comprise La Cosa Nostra, which is the thing. Our thing, the mafia, families, crime families. I wish some white person would come to me and try to get me to carry legislation that would disfranchise any group of people, especially other people of color. And I think it's going to whiten me up and they're going to respect me because I do their dirty work, it brings me into greater contempt.

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They had a program that I really liked. I wish every black person could have seen it. Al Capone decided that he would take over the numbers because he didn't realize that all those little numbers slips ran up into thousands and thousands of dollars. So he made the people in these barbershops, the places where black people worked, the stores, the places where those who had a few pennies and nickels could play the numbers, and started making them pay protection as Italians...Italians, did everybody. And he got one of these sellouts, like some sellout might be in the Legislature to go in and be the bagman to collect this money from his own people. And in the movie, you know what Al Capone said to his driver? He said, when he comes out, ice him. And the driver said, what? He said, ice him. He said, you mean we should kill him? You know what icing means, that's what I mean. But he's bringing us this money, why would you do it? He said, any man who would treat his family, his race, his kind like that is not somebody I can trust. Ice him. So while this tom thought he was cheeing up, he had signed his death warrant. So when you find these Italians, you find these Jews, you find these Mexicans doing the dirty work for these white people, I want them to know they only have more contempt for you and you can see how they treat the rest of your kind. If you think that you selling out and doing their dirty work somehow elevates you, and if you get a higher office, they're going to make you do what they want you to do because you've already shown them what you are. And I mean every word that I'm saying. You have more contempt for those of your kind who sellout than you do the enemy that your kind are supposed to be fighting. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'm going to put on my light because I have another thing to say about your lying Governor and some of the hypocrites on the floor of this Legislature when it comes to allowing felons to vote. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and you're recognized. This is your third time at the mike. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. You know what some of the fools on this floor said when we had that vote last year, letting people have their right to vote when they're out? Well, the constitution says you can't...the Legislature can't do that, that it's up to the Pardons Board to do it. But then you know what those fools, those ignoramuses and your white ignorant Governor said? Let the law stay where it is that after two years they can vote. Well, if it's unconstitutional to vote when they get out, it's unconstitutional for them to vote two years down the line, but it wasn't deemed unconstitutional to put the two-year wait period. That's how crazy you all are and you think I'm as stupid as you are, that I don't know your constitution? I can't see when you violate your constitution. I am not Murante. I am black Ernie Chambers. Don't bring that stuff to me. And then there is my friend, Senator Groene, an elderly, well-meaning white man who looks

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out for white people. He got us and got me to lead the way in the Judiciary Committee to let a white man he knew, who was a felon, be allowed to go into the archery business because if we didn't change the law for that white man that he liked, that guy couldn't have been in the archery business because the arrows and other accoutrements would have qualified as weapons that a felon or ex-felon couldn't possess. So he tricked me, but he didn't really trick me. I'm for giving people a second chance. Not just black people. He's for white people that he knows. And I talked to him about that. Then when the bill came up last time about letting felons vote, he voted no because his white friend had gotten in under the bar, because there are some black people who have more decency than he manifested. What do you all think is going through my mind when I'm here watching what you do, listening to what you say? And you have the nerve to say prayers, talk about Jesus, God, family values, conservative values. You think I am insane? I'm 80 years old, but my mind still functions and I think it functions better than most of the minds in here because I wouldn't present the trash and crazy stuff you all do, but you've got the numbers. And because you've got the numbers, you don't have to have intelligence. You don't have to have ability. You get these positions of so-called leadership and you don't even understand the subject matter of the committee. And you all come to me, don't you? You want to get the use and benefit of my brain and my mind, don't you? You think I don't know what you're doing? I will not let myself be reduced to the level that you all operate on. Get in the mud with a pig and wrestle with him, you'll get dirty and the pig loves it. You all will not debase me. You will not abase me. You will not lessen my humanity as I understand it. You will not take away my sense of personal dignity. You cannot do it and you shall not do it and that lying Governor said, let the two-year wait remain in place. Well, how can it be unconstitutional and yet... [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if we wait two years it suddenly becomes constitutional? Are you white people that dumb? You can't see it? You know why you don't see it? You don't have to, you're privileged. You don't have to know anything. That's why all these white men are angry now because they had jobs that didn't require any training or intelligence and when it became a rust belt in Pennsylvania, they didn't know how to do anything and now they want the government to take care of them and the government won't, so they're mad at the government for not taking care of them in the way they condemn the government for taking care of people who are not situated as he was. He had that job not because of capability, not because of knowledge, not because of competency, but he was white and he was privileged and he had a family member or friend who prepared the way for him and when that was taken away, they are out of work now. They're angry. They're not being taken care of and that is said frankly, the government forgot them, the government that they hate. Now they want the government to put a sugar-tit in their mouth. You all have no idea what it means to have some intelligence and be in a place like this. [LB350]

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SPEAKER SCHEER: Time, Senator. [LB350]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.
[LB350]

SENATOR WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seems like I got here, I was slowly putting my hand out because I always shock it at the right time. Actually I had to leave court early, so I applaud Senator Chambers for talking so I can get down here and speak on this issue. The fact of the matter is as we're about to take a step into...a step in the wrong direction back into the dark history of Nebraska. We can talk about everything that we went through last year and hear me talk on this issue three more times and more times we've already dealt with LB75, but the fact of the matter is we're talking about a set-aside that has nothing to do with voting rights. And to place this amendment into an area that no matter how I read it, I don't still understand why this is needed, is to raise the same issue that was in this Chamber in 1876. And those who vote for this amendment, as much as I am the nice guy and as much as I work with everybody, I try to, as much as LB75 last year some of you voted against it or didn't vote, I looked the other way. But I am telling you that this is a strategic placement of an amendment that will bring back the dark shadows of 1870 to this Chamber. This isn't about felon rights. This is about what it actually means for a young African-American who is watching this right now, the statement we are making right now. We were the only state to be vetoed not just once, but twice, over this issue, the right for African-Americans to vote. And all they did was change a couple words and removed blacks and put in felons. That is a fact. I can go get you the books down in our Legislative Research Office. I implore this body not to raise this ugly head again. I implore this body to move forward, kill this amendment. If you want to have a debate on LB75 again, it's in Government. We had a hearing on it. We can have that debate. But to sneak in an amendment on a good bill to bring back the ugly head of 1870, we will have a special session. We will continue to fight about every single bill. It's not done like this. You have a hearing. We talk about it. We come to the floor, we vote on it. You don't bring an amendment on Final Reading and sneak it in to bring back what I call one of the most racist things that Nebraska has ever did. So, yes, I drove down here--thank you state troopers who didn't pull me over--to make this announcement. This is unacceptable. We don't operate this way. We're better than this as a body. So if you're afraid to vote no, just don't vote and make sure we have enough nos on the amendment, I guess, to kill it.
[LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: One minute. [LB350]

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SENATOR WAYNE: It's time to move forward. It's time for this body to move forward and we can have a debate on felon rights as it relates to voting anytime, any place. But don't sneak it in on a Final Reading amendment that has nothing to do with the issue. There's no loophole here. They're not restoring any voting rights. It's clear. Who can vote. Two years. It's clear. We're better than this and I hope this body is better than this. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Krist, you're recognized. [LB350]

SENATOR KRIST: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, good morning, colleagues. Good morning, Nebraska. Starting with my time on the mike right after this amendment was announced and Senator McCollister announced that it was a friendly amendment, followed by Senator Morfeld, followed by Senator Chambers--hope I'm not missing anybody--followed by Senator Wayne, who when he came in the Chamber I wanted to make sure where we were on this bill. I think each of us have said what we need to say about this subject matter. And I applaud my young colleague, Senator Wayne, for articulating in precise detail because of his background and because of the people that he supports and he represents what this means. There is a time and a place to debate policy. It's not on Final Reading with an amendment that is snuck in. It certainly isn't policy debated in an appropriations bill which we are witnessing again this year. There's a time and a place to talk about subject matter, to have a public hearing, to get the information that you would glean from the public hearing, to make changes, and it's not on Final Reading or within a nonpolicy discussion about how to spend money. I wanted to put that on the record again. And I will be asking for a record vote from the Chair to make sure that we put people on the record in terms of how you vote for this amendment because I think Senator Wayne has articulated what it means in the macro level, as I would call it, the 30,000-foot level of what's trying to be accomplished. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Krist. Senator McCollister, you're recognized. Senator McCollister waives. The question before us is to return LB350 to Select File. All those in favor please vote aye. Okay. Senator Murante, you're welcome to close on your motion to return to Select. [LB350]

SENATOR MURANTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members, good morning. I thank Senator McCollister for his courtesy on this. So the opposition to this amendment was twofold. First, that it's unnecessary. I would tell you my argument against that is, this bill says that after completion of a sentence that a felon can apply for a set-aside immediately. There is no two-year waiting period and that if granted a set-aside, all civil disabilities and disqualifications imposed as a result of conviction would be removed. That is the rationale. It takes the two-year waiting period which currently exists in law and eliminates it. So to be clear, Senator Wayne, the adoption of AM1697 does not change state policy. The adoption of AM1697 codifies the policy which

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already exists. If you do not like that policy, I understand. We had a debate on the bill last year. It went through this Legislature. It came out of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. It went to the Governor's desk and it was vetoed. There were insufficient votes on this floor to override that veto. This year that same public policy was introduced. It had its hearing in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. It was not prioritized and I do not anticipate it being brought out this year. If the end game of LB350 is to restore voting rights, undermine the legislative process, undermine the committee process, disregard everything that has been done by this Legislature on this specific subject matter, and hide the ball on what we're really trying to do. If what we're trying to do with LB350 is restore voting rights, then we're going to have a longer conversation on LB350. I don't believe that was Senator McCollister's intention when he introduced this bill. He said it to me that it wasn't his intention and I take him at his word for it. But there is a way to go about changing public policy. This is not it. The adoption of AM1697 clearly codifies the state policy which already exists. It doesn't change anything. It is a clarification of current state law. So to those who want to go...the second part of the opposition is, we should reject AM1697 because it's the right thing to do to restore voting rights. I respect your opinion, but this is the wrong way to go about it. There is a bill. It's had its hearing. It's in committee. It hasn't been prioritized. This is the right way to go about it. So I would encourage everyone's acceptance of the motion to return to Select File and the adoption of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Murante. The question before us is to return LB350 to Select File. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. This will take 25 affirmative votes. Mr. Clerk, roll call vote in reverse order. [LB350]

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal pages 744-745.) The vote is 6 ayes, 21 nays on the motion to return, Mr. President. [LB350]

SPEAKER SCHEER: The motion fails. Mr. Clerk. Are there any items to read across? [LB350]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, items for the record. New Resolutions: LR320, LR321, LR322, LR323, LR324, and LR325, all by Senator Baker. All will be laid over. Committee on Transportation reports LB993 to General File with amendments and LB389 to General File with amendments. Committee on Government reports LB1019, LB1098 to General File; LB948 to General File with amendments, as well as LB1130. Amendments to be printed: Senator Friesen to LB389. Announcement: The Health Committee will hold an Executive Session in Room 2022 upon adjournment. Name adds: Senator Riepe would add his name to LB1040. (Legislative Journal pages 745-755.) [LR320 LR321 LR322 LR323 LR324 LR325 LB993 LB389 LB1019 LB1098 LB948 LB1130 LB1040]

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

Floor Debate
February 23, 2018

SPEAKER SCHEER: While the Legislature is in session and capable of doing business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LB758, LB275, LB78, LB285, LB345, LB472, LB480. [LB758 LB275 LB78 LB285 LB345 LB472 LB480]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: Mr. President, can we proceed with the vote and complete this bill, please?

SPEAKER SCHEER: Senator, I am doing things in the order that I've brought across. This is in order. LB480, LB486, LB618, LB710, LB744, LB757, LB310. Mr. Clerk. [LB480 LB486 LB618 LB710 LB744 LB757 LB310]

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion by Senator Murante to LB350 that will be printed in the Journal. [LB350]

And finally, a motion to adjourn from Senator McDonnell until Monday, February 26, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

SPEAKER SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor to adjourn say aye. All those opposed say nay. I believe the ayes have it.