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Floor Debate
January 24, 2019

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FOLEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the eleventh day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Reverend Rich Sheridan from Bethal Lutheran Church, Omaha, Nebraska. Please rise.

REVEREND SHERIDAN: (Prayer offered.)

FOLEY: Thank you, Reverend Sheridan. I call to order the eleventh day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll Call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

FOLEY: Thank you, sir. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. I have a Reference report for LB479-LB588, plus LR12CA. Have a notice of committee hearing from the Judiciary Committee for January 31. That's all I have at this time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following resolution, it's LR10. Members, we'll move right to the agenda, General File Revisor bills, LB1. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB1 introduced by Senator Hilgers as Chair of the Executive Board. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year; was placed directly on General File.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hilgers, you're recognized to open on LB1.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I rise today to open on LB1 and I would encourage your green vote on this bill. I've got three bills here this morning, LB1, LB2, and LB3, all three of which are Revisor bills. So before I speak briefly about each of these bills as we go through them, I thought it would be helpful, especially for the newer members, to refresh our recollection as to what this process is and why it is that I'm up here this morning. Our Rule Book, in Rule 5, Section 3, discusses this process. Essentially it works this way. During the interim the Revisor of Statutes, Joanne Pepperl, goes through and looks for specific statutes that might be obsolete, they might have been rendered unconstitutional by decision of the Supreme Court, maybe there is some other minor correction that needs to be made in order to harmonize provisions and the like. Those revisions are brought to the Exec Board, and the Chair of the Exec Board traditionally introduce those. Our Rule Book actually explicitly states two things. One is that they always start with LB1. This wasn't the first actual introduced bill, I think, but it gets the LB1 number nevertheless, and also they go directly to General File. So these are not bills that have gone to a standing committee and that's by virtue of our rules. The intent is basically sort of a cleanup function to make sure that our statutes are not obsolete and are harmonized. So the first bill of the three that we're going to talk about is LB1. Actually all three of these are ones that are obsolete and the things that can render a statute obsolete would include statutes that maybe by their own terms expire, ones that as I've mentioned were rendered unconstitutional, or are otherwise inapplicable based on changing circumstances. So LB1 is a good example of one of those types of obsolete statutes. LB1 repeals a number of sections in Chapter 50 of our statutes, it's 504, 505, 506, 507 and 508 dealing with the Water Funding Task Force. The Water Funding Task Force was created in 2013 to create a strategic plan relating to water funding. By its own terms, it expired December 31, 2013. What LB1 would do would just be to strike the sections from statute. So with that, I would encourage your green vote on LB1. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Debate is now open on LB1. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I don't have anything to say on these bills, but I feel as James Brown said, I feel good, but I'm not going to do like James Brown. I am very much attuned to what happens to women. I love women. I love women so much that I was born in bed with a

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woman, so that ought to let you know. I've been watching Nancy Pelosi, and she has been an inspiration to me ever since her first elevation to the Speakership of the House. She had told that psychopath in the White House that he was not going to contaminate the Chamber in the House with his so-called State of the Union address as long as the government had been shut down by him in his temper tantrum and pursuant to his coup. He said she would fold, she will cave, but knowing, just from reading, an observation, the kind of woman that Nancy Pelosi is, I knew he would be swallowing spit, he'd be backing up a hundred miles an hour like a jet-propelled crawfish, come people call them crawdads, and he would eat crow. Well, yesterday it happened. That big windbag was punctured, and all of the air came out, and like a balloon which is punctured and the air comes out, he was flying and drifting every which-a-way. Nobody knew where he would land or what he would do when he got there. But because he cannot stand to be whipped so thoroughly, he had to jump onto the world stage by saying that an individual in Venezuela who proclaimed himself the President of Venezuela, Trump immediately recognized him as the President. This country has been very, very jealous of its national prerogatives and did not like other nations interfering in their internal affairs. But the world knows that there is a lunatic in the White House, and that he may have to be dealt with. I told you yesterday the theme song for Nancy Pelosi, which is "You don't own me", but I think that Billy Joel had a song for Donald Trump. And I think those of you all who follow Billy Joel know what that song was. [SINGING] You may be right, you say I'm crazy, but it just might be a lunatic you're looking for. Don't try to fight, don't try to change me. You may be wrong, but for all I know you may be right. And then he goes on to tell that she would not try to change him because she wouldn't want him any other way because she would enjoy some madness for a while. And that's Trump's attitude, except that he is on the world stage, and what he is doing is demonstrating the validity of the principle that you should not allow children to play with matches. You've got something worst than a child playing with matches --

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --in a house. A child might burn down the house. Before we know it, Trump may order a military strike against Venezuela. He may order the assassination by American operatives of Maduro, who is the President of Venezuela. I know people on this floor do not pay attention to things that happen outside of this building, outside of the city of Lincoln, outside of what the

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Republican party dictates and the Governor dictates, but there is a big world out there. Many things are happening, and if you paid attention, those things might blow your mind. When Donald Trump-- how much time do I have, Mr. President?

FOLEY: Three seconds.

CHAMBERS: I'll stop and wait until I'm recognized.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Doctor of the day and visitors introduced.) Continuing discussion. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Something that your President did that offended me every time he did it was to refer to the Speaker of the House as "Nancy." He doesn't want anybody to refer to his wife as "Manilla." He wants them to call her the First Lady. He called this highly-respected, imminently-competent and qualified Speaker of the House, "Nancy." She should have called him "Donald," and as quiet as it's kept, you all won't know when I'm telling the truth and when I'm not. I'll say like Trump when he's getting ready to tell one of his big lies, would I lie to you? There should not be a thunderous chorus in unison of "you said it, buster." Nancy, as he called her, knows my fondness, respect for her, and she got in touch with me through Streaming. She knew that I would be offended by that. She said, Ernie, -- she can call me Ernie, little children do, -- Ernie, I knew you would be upset when he called me Nancy, and you thought I should call him Donald, but the reason I will not do that is that there is a person whose first name is the same, and they might think I'm disparaging him, and it would upset all people. And I racked my brain. I said, well, what Donald is this? She said, Donald Duck. I said, oh, yes, we certainly wouldn't want Donald Duck to be confused with that person. But I did think of a children's story as I thought about what Trump has been doing. He can bully white men. White men are cowardly. In a mob, they're very bold, they're very brave, but they're cowardly otherwise. How about the white guy who went into the bank, made everybody lie down on the floor and then shot them dead. That was not an immigrant, except that his family probably were immigrants. So Trump is still on safe ground. The one who did that heinous murder, as they called it, was the child of immigrants. All of these white male murderers, and they said, it's almost a year to the day of that horrendous murder in that school in the same city. He,

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undoubtedly, had immigrants in his family, so they're responsible. But he built the wall too late. What about the mafia? What about La Cosa Nostra? What about Bonanno? What about all those mobsters? They were all the children of immigrants from Europe, but the wall is being built too late. It's like the wolf and the three little pigs. The silly pigs, who are like people in this Legislature, built houses of straws and sticks, there were three of them. One built the house of straw, one the house of sticks, and the wolf said, little pig, little pig, let me come in. And the little pig said, not by the hair of my chiny-chin-chin. The wolf said, then I'll huff and I'll blow – huff and I'll blow your house in. And he was true to his word. He huffed and he puffed and he blew their house in. But they got away. Happened to the second one. They got away. Went to the third pig's house, whose name was "practical". He built his house out of stone, masonry, reinforced concrete, and maybe some of those metal bars. And when the wolf came and said, I'll blow your house in, "practical" pig laughed at him.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: So like Donald Trump, he, the wolf huffed and he puffed and he huffed and he puffed and he huffed and he puffed until he fell exhausted on the ground, as did your President. He cannot cope with a strong, intelligent woman. This woman that I'm speaking of came from a long line of savvy and tough politicians. She's not like somebody who was appointed when scarcely out of school to be a member of the House running around taking orders from people. When Nancy Pelosi came, she was armed and ready and demonstrated it. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You may continue on your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: And I think I can finish up everything here, and these other bills will be allowed to go across unscathed by me. Nancy Pelosi when it came to Donald Trump-- all you young ladies, keep this in mind. Don't let anybody tell you what limits are on you. Don't feel limited because you see some of the people in here taking orders from the Governor and swallowing spit and voting the way the Governor ordered. For the Governor its like a "slam-a-dunk". I see somebody looking at me and I usually let people know that I'm aware. But we had a conversation, believe it or not, even before the first day of the session. I shouldn't say this

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because it will hurt her. We have an understanding already. I don't mean vote trading or anything like that. You all don't know who I talk to, and you don't know who talks to me. But when it comes to Trump, Nancy Pelosi is razor-sharp and leather-tough, and she beat back that blow-hard's bluff. That's all he was. Now I'm going to punish all of you. This is to Nancy Pelosi. And I gave one verse the other day. [SINGING] You don't own me. I'm not just one of your little toys. You don't own me. Save all that stuff for your milquetoast boys. Don't tell me what to say -- oh, no, don't tell me what to do. Don't tell me what to say. I have contempt for you. I'll do things my own way. No, you don't own me. I'm not just one of your little toys. You don't own me. Go bully all your milquetoast boys. The worst thing you can call a grown man, if you're black, is "boy"; and those white men in Congress should be called that. They're supine, they're cowardly, they're being dictated to by a moron, an idiot, an insane person. He is all of those things, and I owe an apology to anybody in one of those categories that I named. This man is destroying everything your country supposedly stands for. What he is doing is not going to cease to be when he ceases to be here. I'm going to repeat what I asked the other day. How many of those out of work, out-of-cash people has he invited into the White House to eat? All of his hotels, how many FBI agents did he invite? How much of all those millions that he boasts about has he contributed to the soup kitchens, to the food banks, to feed federal employees who are still trying to do their work, but there's a limit to what human beings can bear. And if all the pilots walk out, or a substantial number, the airplanes are grounded. TSA agents need not even be there. The FBI has already said they cannot protect this country from the enemies of this country, and these enemies are not immigrants, the enemy lives in the White House.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: He can threaten other people, but if I said something should have-- but I would do something to the president, it's a crime. I believe, I believe that a day is going to come that if Trump keeps doing what he did, one of these military individuals who will be the rank of General will say, I took an oath to defend this country against enemies foreign and domestic, and that means anybody who threatens the welfare of this country must be dealt with as I dealt with her enemies on the battlefield. And on the battlefield, it's kill or be killed. And as a General, I do not intend to be killed, but I'm prepared to accept the consequences of my actions as I was on the

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battlefield. You all are putting some General in jeopardy by not telling your elected representatives to do something about that moron. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Hilgers, you're recognized to close on LB1. He waives closing. Members, you heard the discussion on LB1. The question for the body is the advancement of the bill to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB1 does advance. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, before moving to the next bill, there are two announcements. The Retirement Committee will hold an Executive Session under the north balcony now, and the Education Committee will hold an Executive Session now in Room 2022.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. LB2. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB2 introduced by Senator Hilgers as Chair of the Exec Board. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, placed directly on General File.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hilgers, you're recognized on LB2.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning again, colleagues. LB2 is the second of three bills this morning eliminating obsolete provisions in our statutes. This one eliminates Chapter 43, Section 3201, which is the reference to creating what was called the McGruff House program. The program was a federal, local partnership by which these McGruff houses could be created at the local level, and they would be haven for youths who were at risk. The Department of Justice in 2012 eliminated the program. Subsequent to that the local program was also eliminated. The McGruff house is no longer operative and no longer exists, and LB2 would eliminate the reference in our statutes to that program, and I would ask that you vote green on LB2. Thank you, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Is there any discussion on LB2? Seeing none, Senator Hilgers, you may close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the advance of LB2 to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB2 does advance. Proceeding to LB3. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: LB3 introduced by Senator Hilgers as Chair of the Board. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, placed directly on General File.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hilgers, you're recognized to open on LB3.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning again, colleagues. This is the last Revisor bill that we have. LB3 eliminates a number of references to prior appropriations that are now obsolete, the references to the sections themselves. There's a number of them. They're on page 1 of the bill. One example you would find on page 3, lines 25 to 28 which reference, for an example, appropriations to community colleges for fiscal years 2010, 2011. Those provisions now are obsolete, and LB3 would eliminate those references from the statute. I'd ask for your green vote on LB3. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilgers. Debate is now open on LB3. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Hilgers, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the advance of LB3 to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of the bill.

FOLEY: LB3 does advance. Proceeding in the agenda, motion to withdraw. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Blood would move to withdraw LB14.

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FOLEY: Senator Blood, you're recognized to open on your withdrawal motion.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow senators, friends all, I ask that we withdraw LB14. We had some things transpire. After we dropped the bill, we were able to actually create a better bill in LB549. And since it had not been assigned to the committee, we thought that it was more productive to withdraw LB14 and come up with a new bill. So I ask for your vote to help me withdraw the bill.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Blood. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, the motion before the body is to withdraw LB14. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to withdraw LB14, Mr. President.

FOLEY: LB14 is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Government offers notice of committee hearing; Revenue notice of committee hearing. In addition to that, your Committee on Urban Affairs reports LB67 to General File; LB193 to General File; LB194, LB196, also to General File. Your Committee on Transportation reports LB79 to General File, LB82, and LB117, as well as LB190, all to General File. The Rules Committee reports on the election of Senator Erdman as Vice Chair of that committee. Series of name adds: Senator Crawford to LB6 and LB12; Senator Cavanaugh to LB44; Senator Hunt to LB50; Senator Blood to LB61; Senator Albrecht to LB77; Senator Crawford to LB115 and LB138; Senator Cavanaugh to LB154; Senator DeBoer to LB154; Senator Quick to LB163; Senator Cavanaugh to LB210; Senator Briese to LB227; Senator Hunt to LB252; Senator Blood to LB323; Senator Briese to LB343; Senator Morfeld to LB424; Senator Kolowski to LB439; Senator Blood to LB439; Senator Kolterman to LB497; Senator Matt Hansen to LB573; Senator Williams to LB594; Senator Briese to LB594; Senator Brandt to LB594; Senator Blood to LB611; Senator Pansing Brooks to LB709; Senator Blood to LB715; Senator Morfeld to LB724. An announcement: The Reference Committee will meet in Room 1003 upon adjournment.

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And finally, Mr. President, Senator Slama would move to adjourn until Friday, January 25, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to adjourn until tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.