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Floor Debate
March 28, 2019

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HUGHES: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fiftieth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Mark Kolterman. Please rise.

KOLTERMAN: (Prayer offered.)

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. I call to order the fiftieth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

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

CLERK: I have no corrections.

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

CLERK: Mr. President, the lobby report, as required by state law to be filed, today's Journal. A series of reports, agency reports received, on file on the legislative Web site, available for member review. That's all that I have.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Visitors introduced.) Speaker Scheer for an announcement.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, it's the last day of the week, so I will give you a clue on what we've got coming next week. A reminder that next week we do start full-day discussion. I do want to start today in relationship, we have a four-day weekend. I think it's time for all of us to get a little rest over those four days and do a little reflection. Couple things: We cannot take bills and then make them about a person or personalities. Bills should be upon their content. However, we cannot take objections to our own bills and take them personally. They are

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about the bill. We both, all of us, need to do a better job of reflecting and noting that is our objection about a person or about the bill and was the objection to my bill to me or was it about the contents of the bill? We will have philosophical differences. We should. We are different people. We are 49 individuals. But, please, do not make a personal; do not take it personal. The system will run much better if we do neither. In relationship, some of you may have noticed, and that's my scolding for the week. Just think about it. Out front on K Street you'll notice they're doing some construction with the pipes. From my understanding the hope is that they will be done with that process sometime by early May. That's not a guarantee so do not take that and put it on your calendar, but the piping is all going over to the well field that we're developing for the heating and air-conditioning process with the renovations, and it will take approximately, you know, 30 to 45 days to complete, you know, again, dependent upon weather as well. So that should be a temporary inconvenience, but temporary is still 30 to 40 days, so please be patient. And those that are driving around the area, your heads up that it will be there for a little while as well. As far as bills that is will be added to the agenda this coming week, they are as follows. Three-- and again, these are in no specific order. They are just shown and they will show up as they show up. The list would include LB356. It is one of my bills. It has to do with license plates. Lb6, which is Blood's residency requirements for active duty and their dependents on college tuition; LB524, Dorn's, changing provisions relating to annexations; LB227, Hughes, redefining terms and change of determination of public and private nuisance; LB334, Stinner, eliminate funding for angel investment tax credits; LB177 by Senator Lindstrom, a change of termination date for bonding authority for natural resources; LB252, Senator Geist, provide a condition relating to advertisements by the state lottery; LB304, Senator Crawford, exempt certain operations from definition under the food establishment under the Nebraska Pure Food Act; and LB583, Senator Hilgers, providing powers for certain counties under the Transportation Innovation Act. Those will be the items that will be added to the agenda starting next Tuesday. And the last item that I will talk to you about is something that I had a concern about, so I have been working with the Governor's Office. Under the construction process-- [CELL PHONE RINGING] You want to get that? OK. Just a minute, I'll let-- I'll let Rick take care of-- no. [LAUGHTER]

KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Jim.

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SCHEER: OK. I guess it wasn't important. All right. One of the things I've been concerned about is when we have so many of our Senators up in the tower as we go into full day having the ability to meet with staff or your constituents and-- and not having the time or the ability to do so. Part of this process we have reformed the occupancy of different rooms in the Legisla-- in the building in relationship to executive or judicial and legislative. It was my understanding that the Wherry Room was under the legislators' legislative purview but during this agreement it is the executive branch. So I've been working with the Governor and the Governor's Office for over the last month, and what they have allowed us to do, and I want to make sure that-- I want to thank them because this is not something they had to do, and they do utilize the Wherry Room, but we will now have availability of the Wherry Room during the day unless they have requested the use of it. On some occasions that may mean a very short time frame for us to have "knowledge." If we know that the room is going to be used by the executive branch, we will try to make an announcement at 9:00, at the 9:00 opening. For example, if we know it's going to be closed for something at 11:00, we'll note, colleagues, you can use the room up through 11:00 and it has been reserved to that point. When we open at 1:30 we will make the same type of announcement if we know that. If it is not being used, here are the parameters. It is for Senators and staff only, i.e., Senators have to be present with staff. It is not an additional room for staff to hang out in. You may take one to three constituents, if they are here, if you'd like to have a discussion with them, into that room so that you're not out in the Rotunda trying to compete with all the noise and the commotion out there. There is absolutely no food nor drink allowed in the room. That is a difference between our Lounge and theirs, that bill-- that room. So it is available for us to use, but please do not take any food or beverage into the room and respect the room for that basis. They-- we have outfitted the room with a television, so you'll be able to see proceedings just like you can in the Lounge. There will also be a phone that has been installed in the Wherry Room. If it rings, please, somebody pick it up because they will tell you that we're probably under call so you can come back and we don't have to send people to escort you back. We have tried to make every arrangement so that it should work somewhat seamlessly and very easy. It gives those people an opportunity to have a place to congregate with their constituents or their staff without having to go up into the tower and back. It is available for any of us, not just those in the tower, but the purpose behind it was to try to give them some place to facilitate those meetings without having to go ten stories up in the air and have to wait ten minutes for the elevator to get back town. I will have-- there is a memo-- I did not follow it, which I usually do

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not do-- you will receive. And there is also a attached stipulations, which I've-- I think I've covered from the Capitol Commission, which actually is in charge of the building. Please review both of them so that if I have forgotten something you're fully notified by the information on the sheet as the use. It will be available starting Tuesday morning. And, again, I want to thank the Governor's Office for allowing us the ability to use this. Hopefully this can become a long-term facility for us as the construction continues to move around the Capitol because the tower will be continued to be used for at least the first four phases as we move forward. So-- and I have not secured that for all four. This is just moving forward for this session, starting the first week of April. So hopefully that will be able to facilitate the remaining part of this, of which I and many others will be gone, but will allow the rest of you an opportunity to utilize it. Again, if there's any questions, comments, please go ahead and contact myself or my staff. You'll be receiving this via e-mail, and I believe we will be passing out copies as well. And I went through them sort of quickly, so I'm sorry, but for those that are listening I will run through the numbers one more time of those bills being added so that they are aware of it. I will not give you the description. If you are listening, I'm just giving the numbers this time: LB356, LB6, LB524, LB227, LB334, LB177, LB252, LB304, and LB583. And as they say at all the Catholic parishes, bingo. So with that said, please take my comments to heart that I started with. We can do a much better job if we just look at ourselves and try to do a better job. Enjoy the four-day weekend. We need that, I think, at this point in time. We've put in over half the session. And I look forward to seeing all your smiling faces on Tuesday. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Scheer. Mr. Clerk, we will now proceed to the first item on the agenda.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Government Committee reports on the appointment of Richard Grauerholz to the State Emergency Response Commission.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Brewer, you're recognized to open on the confirmation report.

BREWER: Good morning, Mr. President and colleagues. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee met on Richard Grauerholz on March 21. He is a-- it was a hearing

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held for Governor Ricketts' reappointment of Richard to the "emergence"-- State Emergency Response Commission. The commission heard his testimony on this public service, on his public service experience. Please keep in mind that he is also the mayor of Ashland, Nebraska, and already serves on the commission. The committee members present heard were Senators Lowe, Hilgers, Kolowski, Blood, Hunt, Matt Hansen and myself. Senator La Grone was testifying in Judiciary at the time. After we closed the public hearing, the committee met and voted unanimous-- unanimously to recommend Richard's appointment to the State Emergency Response Commission and to be confirmed. Later, Senator La Grone informed me of his support and that ended the committee vote at 8-0 and 0, and the recommendation to confirm Richard Grauerholz to his appointment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. We open to discussion of the confirmation. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have no objection to this recommendation nor any of the others, but I'm going to find times to speak and I will not be silenced. I listened to the Speaker. That was nice. If everybody was white, it works. But when you're the outsider, it doesn't work. White people's interests parallel, they intersect, they overlap. If one white person gets upset or tired and doesn't want to talk, there are 40-something other white people who will take care of it. When it comes to the interests of the people that I represent-- and they're not just of my complexion, by the way, for your narrow-minded people-- that doesn't obtain. If I don't speak, nobody will. I'm looking at Senator Lowe smiling and I had made a presumption about him. Now he's never professed to be a Christian. He's never acknowledged being a Christian, so I'm not going to assume he's-- that he's one of those people and I just want him to know that. I will not put that label on anybody who does not voluntarily take it. If somebody hung that on me, it would be highly insulting. So I don't want anybody ever refer to me in that fashion unless they intend to insult me, and I will respond in kind. Now, you all continue read history. What happens on this floor is nothing compared to the way things used to happen in the Congress and U.S. Senate. In the U.S. Senate when there was slavery and your people owned mine, like cows, pigs, and chickens, there was one of your kind who didn't agree with that. His name was Charles Sumner. And there was a racist who would fit right in with what happens in this Legislature. His name was Preston Brooks. He was from South Carolina and he

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felt that the integrity, the dignity of the South and the honor of the South, the slave-holding South, was being besmirched by things that Charles Sumner said. In those days at the Senator's desk, the Senator would sit down in a chair under a desk. His knees would go under the desk. The reason I say his, there were no women. Preston Brooks came in with a hickory stick, and while Charles Sumner was seated at his desk, he, Preston Brooks, beat him bloody to the cheering of the racists, as would happen here if somebody had the nerve to try it on me. I am fed up with what happens here, and I've got to make some things clear this morning based on what the Speaker said. Preston Brooks was lionized as a hero in backwards South Carolina, where the savage people hailed from and still reside. Charles Sumner never recovered from that, but he never changed his pressing for the rights of all human beings, his antislavery positions. So you all need to read history. And when your little feelings get hurt in here, go back to elementary school. You all will say things that are devastating, but you don't want to be called out for it. Then don't say it. Words are spoken here by people. People here have names, and if they don't like the name they've got go to court and change it. But if Senator Halloran says something I don't like, I'm going to say Senator Halloran said it. If Senator Groene said something I don't like, I'm going to say Senator Groene said it. Oh, and I see Senator Erdman looking at me. He's been out of it up till now, but when you look, you come under the scrutiny. But I'm not going to change.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And I'd like to see you all try to put a rule in place to stop me. You'll have a reason to use those troopers out there, because I'm not a child and you're not going to treat me like a child. And the Speaker talks to you like you're children because he's using the kind of language that children understand. You all are adolescent. You are childish. And when somebody outside this body controls what happens in here then the Speaker ought to be talking to the Governor's people. The Governor is the one who dictates what goes on in this Chamber, but he doesn't dictate to me. He can try, but it's not going to work. And since I play by the rules and I had a minute, I'm not going to overstay my time. But I got my light on. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

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WAYNE: Good morning, colleagues. So I think the messages might have been directed at me a little bit this morning, so I need to-- need to talk a little bit today. And I'm going to give everybody who was wondering why they got IPP motions, wondering why their bills are getting amendments on it today, I will tell you today why all that happened. First, I believe fundamentally in the 24-hour rule that no one should create policy decisions, no one should make major decisions in life after an event, that you should wait 24 hours before you do something. And the fact I had a bill up yesterday, I waited because I wanted to see even if I get a bill passed first round, will that change how I view the day before? And after that bill passed, the Clerk read in multiple IPP because it did. I went to my staff and said, what happened on the floor two days ago was deceitful, intentional, and an abuse of the three-hour rule that the Speaker put into place. That multiple people came to me and said, you're going to get a vote. Multiple on those, what I would consider the other side leadership, came to me and said we will get a vote. And in fact, Senator La Grone, I'm going to be careful how I walk through this, but Senator La Grone yielded the remaining time to me so I can tell people how to vote on La Grone's amendment and my vote will come up. But here's what happened. Throughout the whole debate I kept hearing this is not a filibuster. But what happened was during that, nobody else in the queue, a Senator walked to Senator Lowe. Senator Lowe pushed his button, yielded his time to Senator Groene. Then Senator Friesen jumped in, and after that the Speaker pushed his button two times making sure that I went over the three-hour mark, making sure that I have to have 33, in which the reality was I had to have 30 anyway to get on the constitution. I had a burden that I already had to overcome. But I was told multiple times by multiple Senators, this is not a filibuster, you will get your vote today. And the reason why that's important, colleagues, because there was things I could have did to ensure that vote happened. There was nobody else in the queue who didn't speak. Most people already spoke multiple times on the same amendment for two hours. I could have called the question. But I relied on my colleagues' good faith to talk to me about what was going on. And that word was broken. And even after my bill passed first round yesterday I can't ignore that. I can't ignore that the only agreement I can put into place at this point is that for the rest of the state of Nebraska TIF can be defined in statute, but for my community it has to be defined in the constitution. I can't ignore that fact in the historical context that we will talk about today that has brought me to the conclusion that every Speaker bill will be-- go the distance, whether it's a filibuster or nonfilibuster, whatever you want to call it. Three education-- two education bills will go the distance, and at least four personal priorities will go the distance. My

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calculation, that leaves is with about four days for budget and property tax, and that doesn't include a couple other bills that I really don't like. Every day this is going to be a long session because my colleagues, not just one but multiple, broke their word to me. So the same reason that a bill died yesterday about people not trusting and people breaking their words,—

SPEAKER: One minute.

WAYNE: --that's what's going to go on going further, because I have no other choice. I'm not going to allow my community, and I'm the Senator freshmen year who was called a boy by another Senator. I'm the Senator who sat here and watched us give felons the right to carry swords and cross bows, but won't let them vote two years-- until two years after their conviction. I'm not going to allow my community to be a second-class community anymore. Senator Erdman has a bill that defines ag land, because in the constitution it says the Legislature will define the classification of ag land. There's no definitions on ag land. But yet when it comes to my community, we have to put definitions in the constitution. It's not going to happen. That's where I'm at. You can sleep on it this weekend.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm proud of you, young Senator from my community. I have been what I am for 44 years, and you all are not going to change me. And when I watch those gutless people, and that's what I said they are, be dragged outside this Chamber and the Governor told them what to do, then the Speaker's going to tell me how to behave in here so I'll go along with something some white man over there in his office running things and running this Legislature says ought to be done, I cannot win anything by one vote but I can stop a lot of things with one voice. You all don't believe me. I could take this matter that's before us all morning if I chose, but I don't choose to do that. But I'm going to get my, not just a pound of flesh, I'm going to get all of the time that I want and I challenge you all to try to stop me. And you'll spend the whole session trying to stop me. And while you try to stop me, you will stop everything else on that agenda. Everything else on that agenda involves your people, white people. And when you do what you did yesterday, gutless people, the Governor marked you and you let him mark you as a coward, as a spit swallower, as a bootlicker and a traitor. Figure out

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what your own position is and then take it. But after you've taken that position and the Governor sends somebody over here-- he doesn't even have to come over here and talk to you-- it reminds me of a Centurion who went to Jesus because Jesus was running around healing people. And the Centurion told Jesus, I've watched you and you do heal people. I've got a servant at home who is ill, and I want you to do for my servant what you're doing for all these other people. And Jesus said, take me to your house. And the Centurion wagged his finger. He said, oh no, I am a man set under authority as are you in your realm. I say to this one come, and he comes. I say to that one go, and he goes. You don't have to come to my house. You speak where you are now, and my servant will be healed. And Jesus marveled at that man's fate-- faith and spread the word to these nonbelievers who pretended that they believed. And the heathen believed Jesus more than those hypocrites did. That's what happens here. You hypocrites have your prayer. You honor a rag, a rag, yeah, I said it's a rag. And all those people who called me, all of them who send the hateful letters, send some more. That lets me know that I'm winning because the vipers not only are hissing but they're listening. All of you who think I shouldn't call it a rag, why didn't you get upset when one, who by your definition is a hero, was demeaned, degraded by your President and the man has been dead for months? That man was in a prisoner of war camp. He acquitted himself with such dignity and integrity that after, after, after that was over, many years later, the man who was in charge of the prison camp gave homage to the way John McCain acquitted himself. And your President was a gutless--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --draft dodger who got an unethical doctor to say he had something wrong with his heel. Nothing was wrong with his heel. He ran the 100 yards faster than anybody on the Olympic team ever did. So you all get mad when I talk about a piece of fabric. Do you all realize that that rag is used as a bandanna by those who ride motorcycles and others? Do you all realize that not only does it cover the hair on a man's head but it covers the pubic hair of women in the form of bikinis? There are flag bikinis, and you all don't get upset with that. You have selective indignation, and the rag means more to you than the people. It has meaning only as a symbol, and it symbolizes one thing for you, and it symbolizes something--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: --else for me. And it's not--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --something I'd stand up here--

SCHEER: Senator,--

CHAMBERS: --every morning--

SCHEER: --time, please. Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Returning to floor discussion. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you. And any of my colleagues want to yield me more time, I understand if you don't want to, but I'll appreciate it because we're going to be here all morning. Thank you, Mr. President. So back to my historical context, I think it's important that people understand my position and that this is not just some random thought, that I put a lot of time thinking about this, that I told many of my colleagues going into this session that there will be my mountain lion moment, that this year I am looking to do something for north Omaha that could fundamentally change it. Why is that important? Let's talk about properties and property taxes for a second. When someone owns a property, and for America, for the last century, owning a home or property has been the way you accumulate wealth. It's been the way to pass on security to generation to generation. But our government, including this state, has systematically over the last 150 years denied that opportunity for people who look like me. That's part of the reason. Let me give you some more, more detail: 1862 Homestead Act. Most of Nebraska west of Lincoln had some kind of Homestead Act; 1862 to 1904 not one African-American received homestead in the state of Nebraska; 1904, Kinkaid Act, U.S. Congressman from Nebraska wanted to make sure we populate Senator Brewer's district, the Sandhills, so they started giving 640 acres to settlers; 1907, a couple former slaves founded what's called DeWitty, DeWitty, Nebraska, 1907. By 1924 over 100 families got there. That was the first time in America's history that we allowed, the government allowed some homesteaders, but they did it in a way, part of the area they couldn't populate the best and we couldn't get farmers to work out and grow because the

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Sandhills is tough to farm in, especially you farmers know that. So by 1936 DeWitty was gone. The reason it was gone is 1921, World War II. We had experienced a lot of snows and a lot of bad weather, like we did around this year. And while white farmers can go get their local bank and get remortgaged, black farmers had high interest rates and got what we would consider a high mortgage, prime lending, subprime lending, and within by 1936 removed. The last piece of property was sold to a white farmer in 1936. This is our government, state of Nebraska, making sure we have second-class citizens who look like me. Fast-forward, 1940s, 1950s: We have national insurance programs, part of the New Deal. Black and brown people could not participate. In fact, there is a map in Omaha you can look at, and the Revenue Committee saw it, a redlining map. And if you were to go to Omaha, Nebraska, today, those populations look identical back in 1940s as it does today from redlining. We cannot ignore the historical context in which when you tell me my community has to have a definition in the constitution but the rest of the state can have it in statute, you can't ignore the historical context of why we're willing to shut down this body. So from 1950 to 1980, even if the 1968 Fair Housing Act, discrimination based off of mortgage in the private sector that was backed by our federal government still continued.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: The fact of the matter is in 1962 across the nation and in Nebraska less than 1 percent of black people had owned property, and that stays the same today, 1 percent. Over a hundred years it hasn't changed. Now Senator Lowe might think that's a whole bunch of individual people making bad decisions, but collectively you have to question millions of people not buying homes. That is a systematic approach to what is going on by our government, and today we're having the same fight when you tell me I have to put in the constitution definitions, which nowhere else in the constitution is it done for my community. Ag land, not defined in the constitution. In fact, there's bills on it to change it because it's not defined. It's defined by the Legislature. But I have to do something different, set a higher bar for my community? Not going to happen. There's no amendment that's going to bring that together. Until ag wants to define theirs and tell--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

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WAYNE: --everybody what--

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if Senator Chambers would be willing to yield for a question.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, would you please yield?

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Senator. So you and I have a long, long, long history. You know my father. You served with my father, correct?

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Would you describe him as an honest man?

CHAMBERS: Basically. I don't want him to get the big head. Yes, he was an honest man and an honorable man.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. I-- I think so too. He educated me a lot about what it means to serve in the Unicameral and what it means to be a public servant. He educated me in my life before I even thought about running for this office about-- about honesty, integrity, and serving people and the people of Nebraska and people of our communities. Yesterday I witnessed something that was extraordinarily heartbreaking for me. My father told me, Senator Ashford told me, Senator Harr-- Burke Harr told me, other members that are currently in the body told me, the Clerk, Patrick O'Donnell, told me and other freshmen when we were in orientation, your word is all you have, and if you change your mind about a vote you tell them, you tell the person that you committed to that you changed your mind. And that didn't happen yesterday. And it's sowing seeds of distrust in this body and I'm grappling with how, how do we move forward as a body if we can't count on each other to be honest and direct? I am-- I really am heartsick and-- and sad

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and disappointed. Two years ago we-- those of us that weren't here in the body watched the body fight over rules and regulations for a very long time, and it became very toxic. And I really had a great deal of hope, and it obviously was misguided hope, that we could do better this time, that even if we don't agree on things that we could be honest with each other and we can be forthright. I think that the people of Nebraska deserve that from their legislative body. I hope that my constituents expect that of me. I hope that they don't expect anything less from me than to be honest and forthright with them and with my colleagues. I won't agree with everyone in here at some point in time, but I would never lie to you. I would never tell you that I'm going to do something and then not do it. That's not how I was raised. And I'm really sad and I'm really disappointed. And I yield the remainder of my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 1:35.

WAYNE: Thank you. So, again, 1 percent to 1 percent over a hundred and some years later. This is a systematic approach by our government. And I have on my desk, and if anybody walks by, there's two books. One is "The Mis-Education of Negro," and that's about how many education people believed we should go to college verses trade, and it's a great dialogue that happened way back in the 1800s, 1860s.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: The other book I have-- And I know I can't use props so I won't hold it up, is the first Epic Story of "Restruction" [SIC] Through the Lives of the First Black Congressmen. This was right after, right after the civil rights and the Civil War-- I mean the historical Civil War was finished and the Thirteenth and Fourteenth amendments were done. When you listen to the arguments back in 1860s and '70s, they almost mirror what we're doing today, that over 150 years we haven't moved the ball that much. We just call it different definitions. So my next time I'm going to remind people of why we got vetoed twice as a state when we tried to become a state, around race, and keep giving you the historical context of government creating second-class citizens, and they just happen to look like me, Senator Vargas.

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SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Wayne. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Chambers, you're recognized, and this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. My third time on this issue, but I will have three times on all of these confirmation and innumerable times on each bill that comes before us. Now, Senator Wayne is young. He has more natural vitality than I have. If he means to do what he said then there would be rough sledding, but I want him to know that he doesn't have to do that alone because I had made up my mind what I intended to do, and I said so. The gutlessness, the dishonorable things that were done, that were said. I listened to some people stand up here in their hypocritical way talking about drugs and how you need to understand addiction. Then they don't vote because the Governor called them out there and said you better do what I told you to do. That's for you all. Because this is my third time, I'm going to depart from the direction I was going. And I've often talked to you all about that sneering question Cain put to God when God asked him where's your brother, and Cain had killed him. And Cain said, am I my brother's keeper? This is called "Question Unanswered." Once a mighty silverback gorilla in a zoo did a thing no silverback gorilla ought to do. True, he was deprived of freedom locked within a cage. True, captivity did this mighty silverback enrage. Also true, if he could lay his hands upon the key to unlock the cage, the mighty silverback could get free. He and every simian kept encaged within that zoo pined for freedom. Their "encagement" bitterly all did rue. The midst of winter on a gloomy, overcast day, the silverback somehow contrived the simian's keeper to slay. He and all the other simians broke free from that zoo. Some suspected but weren't sure on whom the shot-- whom to shower due for the restoration of their freedom. So they set up court to determine who did guide their ship to freedom's port. On the stand the mighty silverback offered testimony, marked by anger, indignation, bitter acrimony. He was asked, was it your hand that took the keeper's life, dispatching him from earth and making widow of his wife? To the query he did not immediately reply. He just smiled a simian smile and winked a simian eye. He was pressed. The last one seen with this man was you, none other. Then the mighty silverback intoned, am I my keeper's brother? Am I my keeper's brother? We have to reverse things to try to make you Christians understand what you all used to take around the world and enslave everybody, to try to force them to do your will. When you treated them--

SCHEER: Excuse me, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: --like less than human, like what you did when you raped black women. In Africa, had we not been brought here, I would not be what you would call brown. That's from the infusion of white blood which defiled my veins and tried to defile my brains. But like the simian, I am not going to bow. I am not going to apologize for who and what I am. And as I've said on occasion, were I blacker I would be prouder. I had said, before Senator Wayne ran into what happens down here on--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --a regular basis, that this is going to be a rough session, and it's because of the way you all have comported yourselves. Now, you outnumber the two of us, but I'm not going to put Senator Wayne into mine. I'm dealing from a different perspective, but it brings me to the same point. The dishonesty, the lack of honor, the way some will serve as tools, as Senator La Grone has been doing, trying to cheese up to people, and he thinks they respect him, but he doesn't know how he's laughed at behind his back already, made fun of how he doesn't know anything, doesn't even see what they're doing to him. And we'll see how much he gets done this session and maybe he'll learn; how other people may be appointed by the Governor, then run out of here whenever we're dealing with things and not participating because she gets her orders from the Governor. We all know that. You all know it and you all have said things about that appointment that I have not even said.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: And the Republican leadership--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --has said it. You said time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Han-- Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:55.

WAYNE: Thank-- thank you, Senator Hansen. So now some people understand the governmental aspect of why we are and why I'm so frustrated with this idea of putting things in the constitution. I want to remind everybody and for my freshmen colleagues who weren't here my freshman year where we talked about. I want to remind everybody how we became a state, you know, how race played a role and how our government played a role in creating a second-class citizen again. The first time we try to become a state, congress passed and our state constitution said only white men can vote. Governor did what was called-- I mean not Governor, President did what was called a pocket veto. Just put it in his pocket and didn't sign it, veto. Next year they came back and said, well, we're still going to do it. And they changed some language but essentially said only white men can vote. Governor-- or the President vetoed it. I keep saying Governor, Senator Chambers, because he vetoes at least one bill from me a year and I'm used to-- used to that word. [LAUGH] But the President ended up vetoing again. Then there was this compromise, a negotiation that came across, and they said we're going to approve you the third time, but on your founding documents you have to make sure all people can vote. So we are the only state, besides Utah, but we're the only state that have it explicitly listed in our founding documents. We have a condition, a condition to be approved as a state, if in our next constitutional convention we put in our founding documents. And that happened to occur and they put in the founding documents. But at the same time we were starting our constitutional convention, there was a movement through the South because the newly free slaves just wasn't a good thing for them to turn out and vote. And the best part is you guys can go down to Research, the library downstairs, to Research and read the testimony from the floor debate. And it wasn't just African-Americans they were afraid of. They were afraid of the Chinese. They were working on the railroads. And on the floor they said, what happens if the majority of white people are no longer majority? What will happen to that vote? How will we be able to rule? Now I'm summarizing, but those in government my freshman year, where I opened up the book that

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almost fell apart and I read it word for word, understood the historical context of that conversation. So they passed, so through the South they came up with this idea of felons couldn't vote. Why is that important? Because felony, Senator Erdman, is not defined in our constitution. There's no definition of felony in our constitution. Isn't that amazing? Yet that is one of the most significant things of how somebody can lose their rights is by be label-- being labeled a felon. We're not talking TIF because TIF, oh, Legislature could change things and it could go crazy. But you actually lose constitutional rights when you are a felon. That is not defined in our constitution, and in fact legislatively we can eliminate every felon. We can just say there's no more felonies because that is not define in our constitution. But when Senator Groene brought a bill to make sure that felons can have swords and crossbows, I didn't hear the argument, we need to put felons definitions in the constitution, we need to make sure this doesn't go out of hand. We need to make sure the Legislature doesn't go-- a runaway Legislature that allows everybody to get one,--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --go out and get a sword. There goes a sword, there goes a crossbow, free to you, free to you, kind of like Oprah. We didn't do that. But when it comes to TIF and development in my community, it has to be in the constitution. So at the time in the 1870s across the South, and I have one minute left, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi started passing these felon voting-right laws, and they started changing the definition of felony statutorily to make sure that it applied to this, free slaves, just free slaves. So when they were convicted of a crime, it was a felony and that way they didn't have to worry about votes. They didn't have to worry about them voting. And Nebraska saw that and said that is a great idea and put it in our constitution. That is a way that we can ensure we can keep the majority, that the Chinese who are working on the railroad and African-American free slaves, we can put them as felons and they can't vote.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen and Senator Wayne. Senator Lowe, you're recognized.

LOWE: Thank you, Mr. President. It's an interesting morning this morning as we're talking about the rights of people and where things have to be placed, whether in the constitution or not. You

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know, I was in the queue. Actually, I went up and I checked to see how much time was left yesterday to make sure that, Senator Wayne, you had time. I figured we had about seven to ten minutes once my time had expired. I believe it's important that we have total conversations over this and-- and there was still time left. And I respect what you are trying to do for your constituents and for the rest of Nebraska, I truly do, like I respect each and every one of us here, what we are trying to do for our constituents and for the people in Nebraska. We all have different ideas. We all have different morals and we have different thoughts and we have different opinions coming from our constituents. I believe that's very important for each and every one of us. And with that, Mr. President, I'd like to yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 3:35.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Lowe. Going back to the historical context of why I can't let this go for my community because I can't allow a double-standard to be placed on my community by this body again. So we passed our constitutional convention. We became a state and we began passing laws that allowed, if you were to beat a horse, a misdemeanor; if you were to steal a horse, a misdemeanor. But if you in an urban area and the same value, let's say a hog, because we had packing plants in south Omaha that were growing, if you were to steal a hog, it was a felony. That there's no rhyme or reason except for the fact one's in Omaha and there's a historic minorities versus a farmer getting their horse stolen by another farm. The value's the same. It's an animal. They both have some kind of productivity. And we can keep going on and on and on. So now let's turn to what my ask is and why I'm so upset, and this might rub some people the wrong way, but those who know me, know me best, when I'm on an island I do my best. When I'm by myself, I do my best. Go look at what happened to OPS school board. I was isolated and we struck the whole school board. Look at the races that I ran. When people didn't believe in me, I outworked everybody. So I guarantee you, on your bills and those who know what bills I'm going after, there will be votes that's going to be very difficult for you to say no 'cause I'm going to spend time crafting a bill and an amendment that you will have to say yes. And if it's a Speaker priority, guess what? Per Speaker procedures, the Speaker has to agree to it or it don't come back up if it's passed. I've thought this through for two days. I will spend the weekend making sure we have good bills. I'm just trying to make-- many of the bills I support. I

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just want to have extended debate, a full debate, not a filibuster, per rules that I heard two days ago. But we will pass with good amendments and we will make the bill better.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: That's what I'm going to do. You say time or one minute?

SCHEER: I'm sorry, Senator. One minute.

WAYNE: OK. So my ask, what I was doing this year, this year I was approached by multiple people to run for a different Chairmanship, and everybody in this body knows I would have won that Chairmanship, and I said no. Everybody in this body knows I would have won that Chairmanship, and I said no. I said no for the same reason I'm standing here today. I have to spend the next two years focused on my community. And for the last two years I put out bills about port authority, about highway bonding. I put out different bills to get a feel for where everybody was at. I spent two years on TIF, and I originally wanted to raise it to 20 for everywhere, but I felt I couldn't get that passed this body. So I carved it out for my community.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Lowe and Senator Wayne. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to yield my time to Senator Wayne, but I wanted to thank everybody who had my back yesterday and the past week on that SNAP bill, who told me they were going to support my bill and agreed to compromise and who stood by that. What a lesson for me that was and I learned a lot. And what I learned is who I can't trust, who doesn't work in good faith, who works for the executive branch and not the legislative branch, who's not serving the tens of thousands of people who elected them. I learned who can be bullied and who doesn't have courage and allows themselves to be taken advantage of when it mattered. And I know some relationships were damaged on my part because of that betrayal and, you know, I'm-- I'm looking forward to this four-day weekend because we need to rebuild some bridges here for sure. On the subject at hand, the-- the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, I supported this candidate who we're supposed to be discussing right now, Tim Hofbauer, who I

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think we're discussing. But I continue to have serious questions about the Governor's vetting process, whether that's in hiring staff for his campaign, "apporting"-- appointing people to positions of power in government or to commissions. And I think that an important role of the Legislature which goes along with the theme we're talking about is to be a check on the executive branch. And I continue to see evidence that maintaining that balance of power in Nebraska is more crucial than ever. I see it through the process in our confirmation hearings and I see it through the process of the debate on bills on our floor. And there's all kinds of things that are said on the floor about people's bills, especially during filibusters. And that doesn't mean that you punish the introducer for something they didn't say, for something someone else said about their bill. How would any of you feel if you-- if-- if me and a bunch of others announced that we're going to pull our support for a bill because of something Senator Chambers said or something Senator Groene said or something Senator Lowe said? That's not a legitimate reason. So when you say that, to me, it makes me feel like you're being dishonest with me. I think everybody would feel that way. And I thank Speaker Scheer for his comments this morning about not making bills personal and not taking votes personally because that's what we're here to do. So look at what bills are up today. Kolowski's bill, I supported that. Senator Brewer's bill, I think that's good. I like Senator Kolterman's bill. I think Senator Gragert's bill is a good bill, just like how Senator Gragert and many other people in this body thought that LB169, my SNAP bill, was a really good bill. But in the end, when it came time to have courage and integrity, they didn't end up making their vote about the bill. And our constituents see that and I think that reflects poorly on us. And to me, you know, everything I said here is about accountability, it's about being in service to the people who are watching us, and that's my priority here. And with that, I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 1:45.

WAYNE: Thank you. So I might-- I mean I think I support this guy or person being nominated. And the reason why this is important, and the reason why I'm picking this bill, Senator Brewer, I want you to know, it's because it's to the State Emergency Committee, or Commission, Response Committee. The reason why that's important is because FEMA just came out with a study that said federal and state disasters, there is a huge discrimination between black and white. This is my point. So I'm giving you the historical context so bear with me. We're going to get there.

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We're going to get all the way to today with FEMA and the State of Nebraska, and how we still create second-class citizens in my community. That's how this all ties in for those who are watching at home.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: I'm not just speaking on a bill to talk about a different topic. I'm talk being a systematic discrimination, even in how we respond to emergencies. And I'll read when I get to that point about FEMA and how states and how they interact and how they take care of their own, but not their urban people who look like me, Senator Vargas, Senator Chambers, and Senator Brewer. That's national study. So we'll get there. Just bear with me. We got a couple more times and we'll get there. So let's talk a little bit about-- well, I guess we'll get there right now. We'll do it right now. A study came out by FEMA and a whole bunch of nonprofits and other government watchdogs that showed that roughly over \$10 billion was spent in a discriminatory way dealing with emergency response. So I want to, remember, we started with Homestead before we became a state, went to the Kinkaid Act.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Hunt, Senator Wayne. Senator Kolowski, you're recognized.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Wayne. Thank you.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:5.

WAYNE: Thank you. I'm going to divert just a little bit and talk about back to why property is so important. Property is so important and home ownership. I talked about generations and building generations of wealth and passing on that security, and how systematically, you just heard, African-Americans, particularly African-Americans, were ignored. But I want to talk a little bit about what a home does for your community, does for sense of pride you have, and the one word that I think is lost on this body when we talk about what communities need and that's hope. See, when you have a house, as much as the frustration is of keeping a house and not being able to call a landlord, you have a pride of owning something. When you come home from a long day at

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work, you have a pride of saying this is my home. I remember when I was little and not so little, a couple years ago, I used to drive down, because my best friend Patrick Brass lived off of 24th and Pratt, sometimes I would venture over, over to 16th Street and I would see Senator Chambers in a hat, cutting weeds and mowing. That home, that sense of pride that historically has systematically been discriminated against my people by the federal government and this. And I gave you real context and real things that happened here in Nebraska. But with that sense of pride comes a generation of hope, hope that I can pass something along to my kids. And you know what I hear about property taxes, 'cause I was the one who after the Judiciary got done, went down to Revenue and sat there until 10:00 listening because property taxes are important and I wanted to understand more of your issue in western Nebraska than necessarily mine in Omaha? And what I kept hearing is farmer after farmer after farmer say that property taxes are going to get me to a point where I can't pass it to my kids, that I can't pass along our family farm to our kids. You just heard the discrimination by the government where my community doesn't get to say, I wish I-- you know, Justin, I just want to pass my home on to my kids. Jobs are being created in south Sarpy, and that's great. They're growing. But my community has no way of getting there. You get a bus, you miss it, the first one at 6:00, the next one don't come till 9:00 or 10:00. You-- you can't go. And if you don't have a good-paying job, you cannot buy that asset that is needed to install that hope of passing on something to their kids. That's what I heard by farmers. That is the same thing that people want in my community. They want to pass something on to their kids. So I want to tell you a little bit about the bills I introduced to deal with this and why LB86 and LB88 would deal with-- and LB87 that touch on the Housing Trust Fund, the reason that's important, because some of the money in the Housing Trust Fund and the doc. stamp actually go to the Emergency Response. So that's how we tie it in. So here is my point.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: LR14, LR14CA is the foundation for my other bills that will change north Omaha. LB86, LB88, I'm rolling in LB88 to LB86 is my priority bill. It deals with affordable housing and going into extremely blighted areas. LB88 is a tax credit that sunsets in 2026 for first-time homebuyers in extremely blighted areas. LB87, opportunity zones, gives additional dollars a priority, not additional dollars, priority to extre-- well, most extremely blighted areas are also

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matched with opportunity zones. And then I have LB129, an appropriations for a study dealing with north Omaha and transportation.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Kolowski and Senator Wayne. Senator La Grone, you're recognized.

La GRONE: Thank you, Mr. President. While I disagree with Senator Wayne on the policy of LR14CA because of the constitutional issue that we were discussing on the mike the other day, there aren't a lot of tools for recourse in our rules and so I don't at all blame him for using one of those. And with that, I'll yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:35.

WAYNE: Thank you, Senator La Grone. And thank you for the appreciation of understanding how I got here, 'cause you were in midst of many of those conversations yesterday. And I do appreciate the honesty you provided. So back to what we're talking about: LB86, LB87, LB129, LR14CA. That is my plan for north Omaha. That is my vision for north Omaha, that there one day will be a bridge that crosses 16th Street to remove the thousands of semitrucks that drive right directly through my neighborhood, that we connect 75 through Iowa and it connects to 680 and I-29 via there, that we have massive investment and actually develop our airport area and all the dilapidated areas around so there so we can have jobs in north Omaha, that we create better schools and that's why I'm focused on working with Education. But that wasn't my priority. These priorities that I just mentioned were my priorities for one and one fundamental reason. I truly believe that most of our social ills go away if people have good-paying jobs. That is not to take away from the importance of social programs. But what makes me different than most people who are elected in my area is I am looking for job creation. I am looking for affordable housing. The only housing being built in my district are from a few nonprofits and rentals. We're not passing on the next property and the next asset to our kids, which is what I heard from the multiple farmers talk about property taxes, passing it on to their kids. We're not talking about that. Instead, we want to take an arbitrary, different standard of TIF to apply to my community when the rest of the state it's in statute. Now I gave you a pretty good historical context of why I am here where I'm at today, 'cause I can't erase the historical, racist context where there were

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good, mean-- good, well-meaning people who sat here and used different words to describe the exact same thing, to describe the exact same thing-- racism. We could have had a policy discussion and I could have lost that bill 28, 27, even 24, and on Final Reading I might have only had 27, and I would have not even got up and did what I'm doing today, 'cause that is a policy difference. But to get up and say 15 times you're not filibustering, but you are, and then at the end of your closing saying if somebody else wants to lead this filibuster, go ahead, I'll support it, but I'm not filibustering, that's dishonest and that's deceitful. And for the individual who controls the three hours to know my time limit and get in a conversation twice with me to push me over, when the entire time there was no talk, there was no conversation for three hours, but at that moment after multiple people told me we were going to get to a vote, don't worry, Justin, 'cause we sat on that same amendment for two hours. I could have called the question. There was nobody else new in the queue. Groene ran out of times to talk. I could have called the question and had a vote, but I relied on my colleagues, because what they were telling me to my face wasn't what happened. Now transpose that to the beginning of the session when Senator Briese had a bill and we were getting ready to go down the rural versus urban divide, dealing with the valuations for bonds on ag land. I ran around this entire floor to make sure that didn't happen.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator La Grone and Senator Wayne. And, Senator Wayne, you are next in the queue and this would be your third time.

WAYNE: I ran around and cut a deal to make sure that didn't happen. For two years I sat here and never made an ask of north Omaha, but I was always asked about north Omaha. What can we do? What can we do? But whether it's urban or rural divide, whether it's just myself, or whether it's myself and Senator Chambers, the tipping point occurred. My conversation with the Speaker yesterday was simple. I am not going around to get 33 votes to show him a card. That is your job at this point, because it should have never got there. And if we don't want to get that, we will continue to have this conversation. But understand, I'm not going to talk about the historical context. I'm not going to talk about everything. I will talk just about your bill. Senator Friesen has a bill coming up that creates-- that leaves in a secondary offense for a learner's permit, and I think that should be a first offense. So we'll have a whole conversation about that. Is it something I'm willing to die on a sword for? Not originally. But now I got to look at every single bill because this [INAUDIBLE] say, hey, that's my colleague, not a big deal, out the window. So

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we're going to have a vote on that. We're going to make that a primary offense. And we're going to have to tell the people, whether a person who is learning to drive should be able to use their cell, that shouldn't be a primary offense. A learner's permit, should they be able to use their cell phone and play on their cell phone while their driving? That will come up and you will have to vote on it. Here is the best part of that. It's going to be a record vote. My amendments are not just going to be file a bracket motion and take time. My amendments is to put things on the record and put votes in the record. So this is really going to be an extended debate, not a filibuster, not just bracket motions. It's going to be a real debate on bills because the trust has left the building. The trust has left the building. And the interesting part is, is everybody who says they want property taxes [LAUGH], that don't-- that doesn't happen unless it goes through me. You can't count there. You can't get 33 unless a few on my side come across. And we're creating a divide today. We created a divide two days ago. So what chance that property tax really gets done here? But maybe that's what we want. We don't want any bills passed. Maybe we don't want anything, so we can-- we can blame each other. And we can go back and run campaigns and say in the third district how you're going to stand up to Ernie and Senator Chambers and-- but if there is a post on social media, that's different. I don't understand how that's different. I don't understand that context, but we won't go there right now. So what are we talking about? We are talking about investment. We are talking about affordable housing. We are talking about providing hope to a community where historically and systematically it's been left behind. And yet this body took the position that we're going to have to create a different burden, a higher burden, for my community to get the benefits of TIF when the rest of the state is in statute. And why does that matter?

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: Well, we're going to have--

SCHEER: One minute, Senator.

WAYNE: We're going to have a conversation, yes, we're going to have a conversation about why that matters, a little more about TIF. See, TIF is based off of the growth, the increased property value. So let's give two examples of how that works. Crossroads Mall: If they do Crossroads-- redo Crossroads Mall on 72nd and Dodge, that's going to double or triple property value. But if

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they do 16th and Wirt, it may only go up 25 cents. That old lot with a house on it that gets torn down worth \$80,000 may only go up to \$100,000. That's why the five years matters. The five years matters because we're not tripling somebody's property like we do on, sometimes, with TIF on 72nd and Dodge. We only increasing it by a couple of thousand.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Wayne and I both had bills this session dealing with the disenfranchisement of convicted felons. Mine, unfortunately, wasn't written properly, so I will be bringing it back next year to restore voting rights for felons entirely instead of ever removing them. I appreciate Senator Wayne's work on this issue very much. It's something that, in my research of it, historically has beared out that it is completely based on racism. Some state statutes even stated that they enacted voter disenfranchisement for felons to maintain white supremacy. So there is a historical context here of how we have treated the African-American community and how we continue to treat the African-American community, and I really appreciate both Senator Chambers and Senator Wayne taking time to discuss that on the floor today. I did want to address something that I sort of missed at the beginning of the SNAP debate. I was in a meeting in the building and there was apparently some issue about social media and voting and social media. I actually have been heavily criticized by people who work in this building, who work for people on this floor, on social media for my bill on felons' voting rights. And I've never brought it up to anyone's attention on this floor because it is completely irrelevant to the job. It's unfortunate. It's misguided. It's not very smart to criticize your boss's colleagues, but I'm still going to do the job. I'm still going to work with my colleagues and it's not going to impact my relationship with you or how I view your legislation. And I will yield the remainder of my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 2:40.

WAYNE: Thank you. So what I was going to continue about TIF and then I actually got the report on FEMA and how there's racial discrimination. So we'll-- we'll go into that because I want to stay somewhat on topic about what this person is being appointed to. But let me finish this TIF conversation. So what I was saying is, if you-- if you TIF some field, for example,

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where Senator Groene has the biggest issue, there is going to be an exponential rise in that value because they put a Walmart there or a Walmart distribution or they put some huge housing development that is going to be worth more than what the farmland was. So it's going to go up to a point that it entices developers, right or wrong. And I agree with Senator Groene on that abuse of TIFing a cornfield that's making \$12,000 an acre, and I'm just throwing out a number, when it's not blighted. I agree with him on that. But what I'm telling you is when you go into north Omaha, you and try to TIF it, you won't get the same raise in property value. So that TIF, what's that based off of, is less. And then when you look at the risk that's associated with the insurance, the cost of doing business in north Omaha, 'cause I'm not going to hide it, there is some crime, there are some issues that drive those values down. So you don't get the increase that you would at 72nd and Dodge or outside of somewhere in North Platte. So a developer looks at that--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --and they look at Crossroads or they look at 72nd and Aksarben and they say, why would I go to north Omaha when I get the exact same financial incentive to be out here? So again, we're gonna create a double standard by this government, by this body to say, no, no, no, TIF everywhere else in the state, everywhere else in the state as in statute and mostly-- I mean, even lottery's definition isn't-- is not in the constitution. It says specifically it can be determined by the Legislature. And how many antigambling people do we have here? But they passed that, understanding that you can't lock people in like that, that times change and we may have to tweak it down the road. But that doesn't mean you say, I distrust the entire process and the entire body. Well, guess what? That distrust you have for future Legislatures is the distrust that I have right now.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Wayne. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got it clear the air here a little about collegiality. I have never had a conversation with Senator Wayne about north Omaha and what's it needs. We have had many conversations of what Nebraska needs. If you will follow what I've done, in the middle of the property tax debate, as some of my ag friends say ag, ag, ag, ag, yea, I said no. Property

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tax is across Nebraska; it has to be fair. I don't understand Senator Wayne saying I did a filibuster. He said I ran out of time. I could have dropped the bracket or a recommit motion. I didn't, did I? Senator Lowe gave me some time and I said, this is over, let's take a vote. Somebody else wanted more clarity and it went three hours, and that person had every right to do that. We came in to this thinking it might be OK. I started speaking, never talked to anybody about a filibuster. When I started speaking, questions were brought to mind. Other senators stood up and started asking questions, not how do we kill this. How do we improve it, was the questions asked. After the three hours, Senator Scheer, you've read the Lincoln Journal Star, went to Senator Wayne and said, we'll work with you. Because, see, I trust the white guy, the corporation, less than Senator Wayne and Senator Chambers do. And Senator Wayne is saying that TIF is for the rest of the state. No, north Omaha is part of the state. The reason north Omaha is in the play, that's why the thing was voted for. North Omaha, my north side of the tracks, that's what TIF was approved for in 1978. The powers that be, the city councils, the chambers, this is a nice tool, we're going to use it out on 72nd and Dodge. And they ignored north Omaha. I still don't trust them, Senator Wayne. You change this to 20 percent without some clarification where it has to be used and guess what? Within 10 years every single part of Nebraska will be considered extremely blighted, 'cause they will take your 20 percent and they will use it where they want to. So I trust them less than you do. And a few other Senators trust them less than you do. You think now if you put that 20 percent, all of a sudden they're going to change and start doing projects in north Omaha? Think again. I am still willing to work with you to improve this, to make sure it is north Omaha and my area in North Platte and an area in Lincoln that is extremely blighted. Good book says visit with your opponent. I tried. I went over to your staff the other morning, said I wanted to talk to Senator Wayne. I have not been contacted. The Speaker said, talk to Senator Groene, see if you can work something out. I have not been contacted. But I am today on the floor. I could go into who hurt my feelings last year on LB496. Senator Wayne walked up the steps with me and he said he was on board. We're going to filibuster that. That's what he told me. He dropped him. He made an agreement with the proponents and dropped his amendment, which did a lot for north Omaha if it's used about construction costs. Guess what? He deserted me. He never told me he deserted me. He dropped an amendment. I haven't held a grudge against him. And you know, what about his saying that we don't help him in north Omaha. Do you know why he's Urban Affairs Chairman?

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HUGHES: One minute.

GROENE: Wasn't Democrats who voted him in two years ago. It was conservatives. Do you understand the power he has for north Omaha as Chairman of that committee? He gets to be able to use his committee Chair priorities for his purposes, which I agree with. He gets his own personal priority. He gets to shepherd bills to Urban Affairs that helps north Omaha. That's how he got elected. I voted for him. I voted for him both times. And I know a lot of other folks did. If that isn't helping his district and him, I don't know what is. I'm still his friend if he wants to be. And I told him that I wanted to work on a small TIF in statute that you could do house by house, go down, fill a one-page sheet out, take it down to the city council and say we're going to TIF this one house, a small contractor. That's what I will work with him and that will help north Omaha.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

GROENE: Twenty percent won't.

HUGHES: Senator Slama, you're recognized.

SLAMA: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be brief with my comments on the floor this morning. Each one of us here represents 37,000 people, 37,000 Nebraskans who have entrusted us to represent them, to act like adults and conduct the lawmaking of this state so that they can go on with their lives. I respect what Senator Wayne and Senator Chambers are doing this morning. None of these comments are directed towards them. It's completely understandable. However, to others who are taking to the mike this morning to scold members of this body, to grandstand about their feelings and just spread falsehoods about what they think happened during a vote yesterday, you have 37,000 people who are depending on you to be lawmakers, and instead of expressing how sad or disappointed you are about a vote that happened yesterday, let's focus on the fact that we have 40 days of session left. How about we get back to lawmaking for each of those 37,000 people and get back to work? And with that, I yield the rest of my time to Senator Ben Hansen.

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HUGHES: Senator Hansen, you're yielded 3:43.

B. HANSEN: Thank you, Speaker. Thank you, Senator Slama. Some of you may know me enough already that I don't really get on the mike very often unless I feel like I should. And so I-- I do appreciate what Senator Slama is getting at and I do agree with her a lot on what she just said. And there are some things that I've learned, maybe it's 'cause I'm a new guy, but there are some things I've learned about how the process works here. And I didn't know the floor of the senate was our sounding block to express our feelings about everything that happens with one of our bills. Maybe it's 'cause I'm a small-town, Midwestern guy and I believe we should say what we mean and mean what we say and then sit down. Now, this is happening, in my opinion, on both sides. It's not directed towards anybody. I understand Senator Wayne's issue with what happened to him and I wish his bill would have come to a vote. I have no problem saying how I would have voted on something. I wish it would have come to a vote. But you know what? It didn't. That's what happens. And we all talk about representing our constituents in our district and I'm doing the same by telling us kind of what Senator Slama said. Maybe we should grow up and move on. I want to deal with property taxes. That's what I came here to do. That's what we're here to deal with. I think that's the number one thing that is a problem with our state right now that we should be up here discussing, not how we felt about what happened to one of our bills. I understand we have hurt feelings, but I don't think that should be shared on the senate floor. That's what we have healthcare professionals, our spouse, our dog. Go home and vent your feelings to them, not here on the senate floor. Let's talk about things that matter. Let's get back to lawmaking, like Senator Slama said. Because you know what? Life is tragedy, tainted with malevolence, and it's time we stand up with our shoulders back and talk about what really matters. You might notice that I have not partaken in a filibuster yet. I will if it truly matters to me. But I'm not going to be up here talking for 20 minutes trying to use up time, 'cause we're on the battlefield of ideas. It's time we start sharing them. Say what you mean, mean what you say. You know, I do got to agree with something Senator Cavanaugh said.

SCHEER: One minute.

B. HANSEN: A lot of stuff we do say on social media or the-- not so much what we say but what's said about us is irrelevant. I appreciate her saying that. But we have to understand what

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we say to constituents, whether it's on social media, when it's on the campaign trail, when it's here in the senate floor do come with repercussions. And so I just had to get up here and say my piece and I just wanted to make sure this is not directed towards anybody in particular, because it's happening on both sides. Let's get moving. Come on. I want to talk about property taxes. That's what I'm here for. Thank you. Appreciate it.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Slama and Senator Ben Hansen. Senator Vargas, you're recognized.

VARGAS: I'm not going to talk too much. Thank you very much, President. I'm not going to talk too much about this. I do-- I do want to talk about Justin, Senator Wayne, a little bit. And, yeah, I think I've been-- I've been only one of the few people that have worked with him for some time, served with him on the school board. What I can say here is that, you know, he's-- he is one of the most committed people I've worked with and is-- cares very deeply about north Omaha. And if-- if you're ever thinking that, you know, his-- his motivations are somewhat otherwise, I can tell you that's just not-- not the case. He's been utterly committed to communities of color, low-income backgrounds, north Omaha, and is trying to-- the word is "equity" when I-- when I think about Justin. And I say this more to preface that that's where all this is coming from. And if you ever look at one of these bills and you're seeing something that seems sort of out of line with that equity lens, you know, it's a good question to ask Justin, but for the most part I could look at most of his bills and see sort of equity lens. But this is just to sort of back up a lot of his rationale and why he feels so passionate about this. Not saying whether or not people can't change their minds. We change our minds all the time here. But I do think we have to do everything we can to then have conversations with each other and be able to say when we disagree and then when we change our minds. It's the only thing we have here. And so I just wanted to say that because I-- I've had a lot of experience with Senator Wayne and he's been-- he's been an amazing colleague to work with. He was the president when I was on the school board and he was an amazing leader at that time. And I think that it's important for us to listen to the words and perspectives of people, not to just view them as fact but to inform our thinking on how we do our work here. And so that's why I think it's important to listen to Senator Wayne's thoughts, perspectives on this. Especially when we talk about coming up with some sort of a pathway to property tax

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relief, income tax relief, whatever type of relief that's going to help everybody across the state, we are going to need 33 votes. With that, I yield the remainder of my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 2:40.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Speaker Vargas-- or Mr. Vargas-- Senator Vargas, I'm sorry. I'm just-- I'm just taken aback, colleagues, because I heard-- I heard two of the most disrespectful things that I've ever heard on this floor. The Speaker just got up and said don't make it personal. And I did my best not to talk names and do anything and-- and for Senator-- well, I guess there might be a family trait because after Senator Groene said something he left, and now Senator Matt Hansen said something and he left. But I want people to hear it. There, he's back. This is not personal. This isn't personal and this isn't just me upset about a bill, Senator Hansen. I sat down and gave-- spent an hour and a half giving you the historical context of racism that this government has laid out to my people and why I am taking a stand today. That's not because of my bill. I said, if my bill would have lost 29, 28, I'd-- I don't-- that's not the issue. But the deceptiveness and then to tell me I have to come back and create a double standard in which no standard else applies in the constitution, is the same historical racism that has plagued our country today. We are creating a second class and we're not treating people the same. And the fact of the matter is, Senator Groene, I would be Education Chair if I ran right now. Everybody in this body knows it. And the fact of the matter is, you've never brought a bill for a constitutional amendment to change the definitions of "blighted" and "extremely" in the constitution. You've brought bills to keep it in statute and to tweak statute. If this is that big of an issue and you're afraid of runaway government--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --you've been here longer than I, yet I have yet to see a constitutional amendment. And you can correct me if I'm wrong. I've seen bills the last two years, and when I looked up 2016, bills that kept the definition and you were trying to tighten the definition in statute, in statute. But yet when it comes to my community, it's not good enough to keep it in statute. It's not good enough to keep it in statute. We got to put it in the constitution. And you think this is about a bill and me losing? No, because the fact of the matter is, I haven't lost. I can go around and do a vote

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count. I'm not doing it because people told me I didn't need to and I'm holding them to their word. I'm holding them to their word. But when I hear a discrimination practice of creating a second class, a second-class community, I'm going to stand up and I'm going to defend it and I will take all the time in the world to make sure that type of subtle discrimination doesn't occur anymore.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Vargas and Senator Wayne. Senator McCollister, you're recognized.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I haven't spoken on this issue yet, so I thought I'd take that opportunity now. I would say that the vote yesterday on the SNAP program was very unfortunate, you know, in that it dissipated goodwill and hurt relationships. And that is not a good thing for us as we have another 40 days of session to-- to deal with. I understand that some people had philosophical concerns about that SNAP bill, but I have to say, the lack of charity shown by some of those folks bothers me a lot, bothers me a lot, particularly for a bill that didn't have much of a financial impact on the state government and, in fact, probably brought money into the state government to-- to provide SNAP benefits for those people coming out of-- coming out of prison. While I might not like all the bills that come up on this body, I make a calculated decision based on many factors and maintaining good relationships with the people in this body is part of that decision that I make. Now I figured this-- the SNAP bill was a good thing anyway, but some of my brethren and sisters in the body did not. I understand that. But, you know, for a bill that was so important to a senator, I can understand that we should have-- we should have passed that bill, as she had the votes early on. And some folks, you know, peeled off and that's-- that is unfortunate. Now Senator Wayne, Senator Chambers, and Senator Vargas, they have some legitimate concerns that they need to address in this body, and I recognize that and I welcome it. Yeah, I have to recognize that redlining was a factor in Omaha, Nebraska, and that goes back to the end of World War II. And those poor families that suffered under that issue, you know, they didn't get an opportunity to develop the capital that some of the other families that-- that weren't subject to that generated. Redlining was a big problem. White privilege is something we need to recognize as well. So I would hope that as the session continues, that we can look at the big picture on some of these bills. Yes, it may not be one of your favorites, but think about the relationships that we need to maintain in order to

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have a successful session. I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Wayne if he cares for it.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 2:00.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Senator McCollister. As I was stating, I will stand up and defend any more, any, any discrimination or subtle discrimination that I see happening. Not that I looked the other way before, but I was trying to always find a solution, always trying to find a solution and common ground. But the fact of the matter is, there are not definitions in a constitution. We can't ignore that. Constitutions are about principles, broad ideas, left to the body to figure out how to come to some agreement to make it work. And in fact, our constitution says the Legislature will pass bills to carry out the constitution. That's in our constitution. We don't define stuff, and we're not going to create a second-class citizen and have me sign off on an amendment that does so, not going to happen in my time in this body. So I will stand up. I will take every opportunity--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --I can to make sure that this is beaten into the ground so people know that discrimination anywhere doesn't pass in this body. And that's what we're talking about. Let me be clear. TIF everywhere in Nebraska is defined by statute. And I am being asked to define for my community an extra five years of where it goes in the constitution. Not going to happen. I have a vision for my community and what it comes down to, Senator Hansen, is at some point when you sacrifice time, money, and every night you're staying at home and you're sleeping with your kid who is five months old and you come down here and you say at one point--

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator McCollister and Senator Wayne. Senator Howard, you're recognized.

HOWARD: Oh, thank you, Mr. President. I yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:55.

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WAYNE: At some point-- thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Howard. At some point, you are willing to die on a hill. At some point, after all the sacrifices, you are willing to die on a hill. And that's where I'm at. It wasn't the bill or the lack of support for the bill. It was how it was done. See- see, I've always believed, and Senator Vargas will remember me voting against a bill that I fundamentally believe-- or a resolution on the school board, and this is the first time I met Senator Hunt and she actually said some choice words that I can't say on the mike because I voted against a sex education bill that I fundamentally believed because the process in which it was done was improper, because process matters just as much as the end result. That is 100 percent. And we met after the vote and Senator Hunt laid into me because I was the only no vote on the OPS School Board, and how the process in which my bill got to 33 matters just as much as the end result. Had I have just lost, wouldn't be here. But the deceptive actions that rose to that occasion to where I got to three hours made me say, let me look back at the last two years and let me look at all the subtleties that happened from felon voting rights to helping out areas of-- of-- of depression and historical discrimination. Let me go back and look at the votes. And anybody knows me, you know I will stay up until 5:00 looking at the record. And that's what I did. And I kept going back to key votes, budget, felon voting rights, giving felons the ability to have swords and crossbows, transportation issues, where funding is going to fund projects, the South Beltway, Fremont area. I'm looking at our state continue to make decisions and I'm continuing to see my community left behind. I introduced a hemp bill this year because I want processing in my community. I spent the last three years knowing more about hemp and how to grow hemp than I've ever thought I would know. And I thought that would be my mountain lion moment this year because of how big the industry is. But that would require me to get up, look myself in the mirror, and say I'm OK with creating a second class in the constitution. And I can't do that. I introduced LB85 this year. It is a local issue. But I did it because every day I got up and looked in the mirror and looked at my daughter and my son and said I have to do something. Luckily, the city of Omaha is working on it right now and I hope they come to a resolution. But I have to do what's in-- within my power, what's best for my community. I'm a state senator. I travel to all over this state. I visit almost every senator in their district. At one point they thought I was running for government-- Governor because I was posting on Facebook everywhere I was going. They thought I was doing a Nebraska tour. No. I was reaching out to my colleagues to build the trust that just got destroyed two days ago. So hear me out. I'm not going to filibuster every bill. But according to Senator Groene's definition, we

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will have extended debate. We will have in-depth debate on every bill. I'm going to read in detail and make every bill just a little better. And we're going to vote on all these amendments to make every bill just a little better.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: In Senator Friesen's bill coming up, it says that a learner's permit must drive the most direct route. There is not a definition of what that means. So I'm going to add a definition that it has to be pursuant to Google Maps because we're going to add definitions to make sure everything is better, so there's no gray areas in bills anymore, that a learner permit driver should not be able to be on the cell phone and-- and texting at the same time and that shouldn't be a secondary offense. We're going to look at every bill and we are going to just talk and vote and we'll have an open dialogue on the floor, like they used to have and make sure that the record is built in the way that needs to happen, because I want to make sure, as Senator Groene said, we have an extended debate. But unlike Senator Groene, I'm not going to repeat the same ills about the same topic. That's only going to happen today. Going forward, it's on every bill, on that bill.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Howard and Senator Wayne. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized, and this is your third time.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:55.

WAYNE: Thank you. And thank you, Senator-- Speaker and thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. So-- and here is what I mean about going by every bill. I'm going to start going back through the record and looking at votes. And I recall this year, I recall this year, colleagues, we had a bill that defined how early childhood should be with definitions. And you know who was against that? Senator Groene. He didn't want definitions in the statute. He wanted to strike out standards and just say, well, leave it to the local to figure out what's best for their community when it comes to early childhood. He struck the definitions out. And we negotiated that deal to strike them out. Leave it to the locals to figure out how to use that sales tax increase, that is voted on by the

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people, best for them. We don't-- what was his words? I think-- I could pull the transcript, but I'll just summarize. We know what's best in our community in North Platte. We don't need the definitions to confine how we use a tax, how we use a tax. We don't want definitions in there. We want early childhood to be wide open and just say early childhood so the local community can figure out what those standards are and what they are. We don't want to put confines around them. See, that's what we're going to do. We're going to look at every bill and I'm going to start calling the people out about the inconsistencies and then asking them to vote on an amendment that deals with their bill or it deals with the bill that maybe is being filibustered. But I-- I-- yeah, I mean, if that was the case, LB640-- sorry, LB860-- LB160, though, was the bill number. I'm talking about the constitutional amendment that allowed for cell-- LB840 bills, LB840 sales tax that was passed, there's no definition in the constitution. And in fact, we leave it to the Legislature to come back and figure out, and we tweaked that. Now I know that might be a concern and a fear, but you supported the bill, you supported adding early childhood because in our constitution we didn't define it, and it allows this body to be able to move and sway with the community's needs. But for my community, for my community, if this would have said north and south Omaha, I bet we would have had to put some definitions in there, we would have had to limit it to make sure it didn't go everywhere all over the state. I just want this body to be consistent. I just want colleagues to be consistent. I just want colleagues to keep their word. But I thought I did a pretty good job, and maybe I didn't, giving the historical context of why this is my mountain lion moment, that the four bills that I mentioned-- you said time?-- that the four bills that I mentioned, I am willing to die on the sword because I am saying that in order for my community over the next 20 to 30 years to change, to stop being the top ten for black children in poverty, to stop having the two homeless shelters in my district, to stop having the crime that we have, it takes jobs and affordable, safe housing. Those are the cornerstone of every community. Whether it's urban, rural, whether it's Main Street or to Wall Street, at the end of the day, everybody wants affordable housing and a good-paying job. And that was what my bill was trying to do and that is the actions of this body to say I can't even get an up-or-down vote on the actual bill, that we're going to play games--

SCHEER: One minute.

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WAYNE: --to make sure it doesn't happen. So we're going to talk. Now let's talk about the at-hand: Recent disasters reveal that racial discrimination in FEMA aid process. When hurricane victims' flooding receded, people returning home to deal with the damage left behind, the disaster recovery process is getting underway in the Carolinas. This was in 2018. And what happened, and when you look back at the Texas hurricane effort, when you look at the Homeland Security and FEMA, when they were working with local levels, there was discrimination. Why does that matter? Because this individual was being appointed to the Emergency Response Commission. That's what we're talking about. We went from 1862 to 2018 where our government is creating a second class and two days ago I was asked to do the same. So because they had no access--

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Wayne. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I hesitate standing, but there's a lot of people watching statewide and you always-- I think records need to be clarified. I've never stood up this year to personally pick a bill and say I'm going to pick on that bill. I've had colleagues come to me and say, can you get in the queue on this bill because we don't want the next bill to come to the floor. If you'll notice, I never did that. When I stand, it's because of a heartfelt principle on legislation. You will never see me do what Senator Wayne is talking about doing, or Senator Chambers does once in awhile to delay the point and make other points. Either on principle the bill is not good for my constituents or it is good, or in the case of Senator Wayne's LR-- constitutional amendment, can it be improved if he would work with us? He refuses to work with us. He makes the point on LB160. Guess what? Senator Quick and I got together, opposing viewpoints 90 percent of the time. His bill is now I believe all the way through. We made an amendment to make it work. If we ever get to it on Senator Kolowski's LB619, Senator Kolowski and I do not see eye to eye many times, but you will see an amendment on that bill that we worked together with and that bill will fly right through. That is collegiality. That is collegiality. That's how the process works. You don't pick a bill that you have no-- no concerns about and then throw an amendment at it for no good reason because you want to get even. Senator Wayne is still a friend. He'll calm down. He's passionate about what he does. But sometimes you get too passionate and you think you're helping, but you're hurting. That present constitutional

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amendment will not help, not the way it's written. It will be hijacked immediately. It'll be hijacked immediately by others. If he works with me on a bill on a house-by-house project to take it out of the big developers' hands that the little contractor, the start-up company in north Omaha picks a couple of rundown houses and wants to TIF them and goes down to the city clerk and says I want to fill out that one-page form and I-- and the clerk goes, yes, the excess property tax will be sent to you for the next ten years, or five. I'll work with him. That's-- truly helps the little guy in north Omaha and the north side of my tracks. TIF is owned, operated, and controlled by big operators, big developers. It will not change if you did what he want-- Senator Wayne wants to do in his constitutional amendment. All he has to do is work with us, just like I worked with Senator Quick, just like he worked with Senator Williams and Stinner on LB496 last year and pulled his support of it-- a filibuster on me. I hold no grudges. I worked-- I voted for LB87. It's a good bill that would help because it forces-- it opens up money, duplicates his area that they got a couple of reasons to get the-- the housing money. But Nebraska, there is no divide unless a senator wants to make a divide. Everything I vote on is good for all of Nebraska or I don't vote on it. That's why we're in a mess in this state and the federal government is. Special interests come in and said, this is about me, you got to pass this because of me.

SCHEER: One minute.

GROENE: We are-- we are not a support group, folks, where we all bring our cause here and we all meet in a room in-- in a circle of chairs and say, I have to have this, and we all nod and we all agree and we all vote for each other's bill. That isn't how it works here. Because it's my bill and I'm one of you and you've got to support my bill because then I'll support your bill? That's the worst type of government you can have, and it's why a Unicameral is not really a good system because we are very highly taxed, overgoverned, because too often we are a party of one in this building, and it's me, I have to have this or else I'm not-- I'm going to take my ball and go home. I was kind of that way my freshman year but not anymore. I'm looking at Senator Blood. Her and I went toe-to-toe the last couple years, but we've worked on a couple of things this year--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

GROENE: --and--

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene.

GROENE: --and we--

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene.

GROENE: --we're going to be voting on it on--

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know why Senator Wayne is bringing up our business about comprehensive sex ed and airing out our dirty laundry on the floor of the Senate, but I'll review-- I'll give the rest of my time to him.

SCHEER: Senator Groene-- or, excuse me, Senator Hunt yielding to Senator Wayne, 4:35.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you, Speaker, and thank you, Senator Hunt. I wasn't trying to yield. I was trying to make-- I mean trying to bring out our-- our conversations previously, but I thought it was important to give the historical context of I stand by process even when I support a bill. So what we're talking about here today is racism, historic racism that came here from 1862 to when we became a state all the way until two days ago when I was asked to create a second class. And I love the idea of principle-- heartfelt, principled discussions. But if-- if when I became Urban Affairs Chair and there was a Groene day and a non-Groene day, which-- which pretty much means anti-TIF and pro-TIF, I don't necessarily see it that way, but that's how most people saw it. I didn't view it that way because-- so I wanted to sit down and work with Senator Groene. But at some point, you get to a point where you realize negotiations end, that we are at a stalemate. And this is a principle stalemate in which we are at. I fundamentally don't believe definitions of TIF belong in the constitution. And if Senator Groene believed that so much, how come in four years that bill was never introduced? That-- that's my problem. My problem is you had a chance to fix the way you wanted and you chose not to do it. And so what I'm saying today, and let me be clear again, the entire state, TIF, tax increment financing, is defined by statute. But for my community, it has to be in the constitution. In what world does that not sound

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like some form of discrimination? I don't know. So I am willing to charge the hill and stay here all day or have a political death in the process for my community. And the question this body really has to answer is, are the four bills that I'm talking about, are they worth your property tax relief, are they worth the ideas and the principles you want to accomplish this year, because at the end of the day we can talk about property tax relief, but since 1862 our federal government and our state government denied my people the right to own property. So where's the property tax relief for my community when they were systematically denied the opportunity to own property from 1862. Nineteen-forty, redlining in Omaha that matches today's demographics; 1980, federal lawsuits showing discrimination; and as recently as 2017, banks are being fined millions and billions, some right here who are-- who are based out of Nebraska, for discrimination. And it's about mortgages. So we can have a conversation about property tax relief until we have this conversation--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --and until this is done to give my people the same opportunity, the same-- to own the same property that you are talking about property tax relief on today. So you want to talk about property tax relief when generations, and I know some people here who have got their farms from homestead, from their great-great-grandfather. My people were not given that same opportunity until 1904, and it was the Sandhills, one of the hardest places to farm. And then when the winter hit, they didn't get to go to the bank and get a mortgage out to make it survive. They had to sell off their property. Where is their and their descendents' property tax relief? Doesn't exist. We carve out special valuations for ag land. What about my community? So, yes, this is going to stop today.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Wayne. (Visitors introduced.) Returning to floor discussion, Senator Quick, you're recognized. Oh, excuse me, one moment, Senator, for announcement.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a quick announcement. The Ag Committee will hold an Executive Session at 11:10 under the south balcony.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. I apologize, Senator Quick. Now you're recognized.

QUICK: Thank you, Mr. President. I will yield my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:52.

WAYNE: Thank you. So here is the question for all my colleagues when we talk about property tax. And again, this morning, I gave you a very historical context of what brought me here today. This was not about a bill. This was about the historical context and what happened and the deceit that has plagued my community for too many years. So I am asking everybody in this body, give me a date when racism and discrimination stopped to-- stopped existing, or just give me a date. Tell me the date. Give me a date-- give me a couple months. Give me the year that the government has stopped discriminating. Just pick a year and I'll say OK and then from that year forward, we'll just ignore everything. But you can't because discrimination continues to happen every day. Every day corporations, every day government is passing laws to make sure my community suffers. And that's what this is about. And I do want to note, I apologize, I said Matt Hansen when I meant to say Ben Hansen earlier, so the record will reflect that I wasn't talking about Matt Hansen. But I will keep-- he just came in and reminded me of that. But at the end of the day, we've got to stop. I made it clear, four bills, I'm willing to die on the sword. If you want to have a legitimate debate about those bills and they die on the floor, I can handle that. But what I'm not going to handle is when people give me their word to my face and they don't live up to it. So there are Speaker-- there are particular bills that I am going after this session. And some of the people are going to be victims of friendly fire because I will support their bill but we will have an extended debate because I have to make sure that this year my community gets hope, gets the opportunity to own homes, gets the opportunity to make sure there's affordable housing, the opportunity to make sure there is safe housing, the opportunity to make sure we can have business development, and the opportunity to put together a plan that can fundamentally change north Omaha. And if you're not on board with that, that's fine. But don't tell me you know what's best for North Platte or for Sidney or for Gering or for Norfolk or for Lincoln and then tell me I don't know what's best for my community in north Omaha. You can't have it both ways, and that's what we're doing. And for two years, there was only one other time in this body where I got up and started talking, and that was about an incident that happened in Education Committee.

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And there was actually some friendly fire on that conversation, but I did that because it involved what I believe was an un-- un-- implicit bias and discrimination, and that's what I see happening right now. And I waited two days. I did the 24-hour rule, which I 20-- 100 percent, 120 percent believe in. You think it through. You figure out. You don't react emotionally. You sit down and you think about it. And I got up this morning and I said, no, today is the day it starts, because when I held my five-month-old, I said, he is going to live in north Omaha and it's going to be better than what it is today, and it starts right now. So either you can disagree with me and have a philosophical discussion and vote it up or down. That's fine. But if we play games, the session stops. Again, I calculated 25 Speaker bills, including 3 of my own, two Education priorities--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --four personal priorities. Calculate that six hours of debate, four hours next round, maybe three, and two hours, one and a half, on the last, that leaves you with three to four days to deal with budget and property tax, and budget is going to take up-- budget will be a superpriority because that's not enough time, probably. But I've watched Senator Chambers do this for two years, more than that, and I tried a different approach. And I told him, my first two years, I'm not going to be on Judiciary because I don't want them to see a conflict between us, that I want to make sure that we're united. And although we disagreed on some bills, I said I want to make sure we show them we can work together. And I tried a complete different approach and I'm still back at the same result. So are we both just seeing something different or is there a systematic problem within this body?

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Quick and Senator Wayne. Senator Crawford, you're recognized.

CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of the-- of the confirmation report raised by Government and I yield the rest of my time to Senator Wayne.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:45.

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WAYNE: Again, we were talking about the systematic problem of discrimination on government. To repeat, for those who just tuned in, two days ago some things happened on this floor and at the end result, the negotiation is supposed to be me negotiating definitions in the constitution for my community where no other definitions exist in the constitution for the rest of the state. Not going to happen. There's a bill coming up about ag land that sets different valuations. In the constitution it says the Legislature shall determine the class, blah blah blah, of agriculture land. They didn't set that in the constitution because the knew Senator Erdman would come along one day and say school and property taxes are out of whack and we need to change something, we need to change something, and guess what, we can't wait two years to put it on the ballot and take the chance of the 3rd District being the only one to vote for it and the 1st District, which is an urban and middle split, may be splitting and then Omaha be in the 2nd District to vote against it, because that would really hurt them in the 3rd District. So we left the definition out so we can have a real conversation, not a political conversation, in this body to provide ag relief. That's why the definition isn't in there. Go back and read the historical context and the debate on the floor. See, that's what I-- I won't come to you with just I hate TIF and let's just talk and rant about the abuse and I'm scared of people. No, we're going to talk about facts. That's why definitions aren't in the constitution, because 10 years from now, 20 years from now, there may be a serious corporation that left, left Nebraska, left thousands of jobs, empty buildings. Wait a minute. That sounds like things going on right now that we may have to have a conversation and say, hey, you know what, it shouldn't be 200 percent, we're going to lower that to 175 percent and we're going to carve that 175 percent only out for counties less than 100,000 people so it only applies to rural Nebraska. Why is that important? Because rural Nebraska might need that in ten years, they might need that now. That's why you don't put definitions in the constitution, and that's why telling me that I have to but the rest of the state doesn't, when you know I'm fighting for my community, I call a spade a spade. You are setting a second class for my people in my community. If you want to rewrite the constitution, let's have a constitutional convention and let's put all the definitions in there. But all my bill did was mimic what currently goes on. That's it. And I was told I would get a vote. I spent two years, and on a 2016 Dodge Ram I have over 120,000 miles from driving all over this state, building trust that was just flushed away. And if you don't think we can do this every day on every bill, and if you don't think that I'm smart enough to figure out in bills and to put an amendment on there that you're uncomfortable with but politically you could not vote against it, and then you have to go

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to the Speaker and make sure he's OK on Speaker priorities because that's per his rule before it comes back, if we don't think I can do that, then I think you're grossly underestimating me. And this is not a threat. It's a warning. It's already in motion. It's already in motion--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --because this body was clear it's time to set a second class for my community, that the only way this is going to happen is if I put definitions where no other definitions belong. Not going to happen today, not going to happen tomorrow. If I don't become a Chair again, that's OK. It makes it easier to throw rocks and throw bombs. The one thing as a Chair, I always had to work with everybody, always try to figure it out. But now I understand why Senator Chambers in the '70s and '80s introduced 20 bills or more and today he introduces for our five. I understand that now, and I'm-- and I'm disappointed that I had to get to that point, that people don't understand what they're actually doing, people don't understand the--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: --historical context of discrimination in my area.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Crawford and Senator Wayne. Senator Vargas, you're recognized. I don't see Senator Vargas. Senator Morfeld, you're recognized.

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I just want to correct Senator Hunt and Senator Ben Hansen. A few statements have been made on the floor today that are incorrect. This is not the Senate floor. In 1934, the voters amended the constitution and abolished the Senate and the House of Representatives and created the Legislature. So this is the legislative floor. This is not the Senate. This is the Legislature. It's just been something that's been bothering me all morning. I think Senator Wayne's concerns are obviously much more important, but I just wanted to provide some historical context and make sure that moving forward we call the Legislative Chamber and the Legislature what it is. With that, I'd yield my time to Senator-- Senator Wayne if he so chooses.

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SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 4:15.

WAYNE: And the only reason we might get on a vote to this today is because there's a group of fourth graders that I'm going to go talk to. That's the only reason today we are going to get a vote on this confirmation. And if people want to yield Senator Chambers time, go ahead, because I'm going to go talk to some fourth graders. Other than that, we would stay here on this all day. And the problem with having me talking and having fun, this is the most fun I had since playing basketball. The competitiveness is coming out. This eager to keep going and not stopping until I get what I need from my community is just getting higher and higher. And so now I understand what Senator Brewer was so passionate about, because he's representing his community in the same way. And that bill is coming back because he's saying he's willing to die on his sword for that. And so am I. And so am I. We burnt down the legislative body for three votes. Let me explain that again. We destroyed this session for three votes on a constitutional amendment I already had the higher burden of getting 30 on Final Reading. I had to get 30. You could have sat around and talked behind closed doors and knocked that down to 28 or 29, and I'd have said, man, lost that. But the way we went deceitful actions to get to 33, and I tried to ignore it, I sat here yesterday, went through my bill, was telling my staff we're just going to hold off, we're-- you know, I-- I'm-- I believe in the 24-hour rule, and after my bill passed I said, man, this is something good for my community, I should be able to take this in. But I went over to him. I said, I got to drop these amendments, got to drop them because I still have to go home and look at the people. And what I did yesterday after I got home, I drove through the areas. I drove through the areas to make sure, is this worth really fighting for? And this morning when I got up at 5:30 because Thomas was crying, I said, I have to, and I have to start today, I have to start today because there's nobody else down here fighting, fighting for jobs. My predecessors did a good job of promoting and helping social issues and I get that. But I'm thinking for the next 20 years we have to figure out how to grow the airport, grow the community around the airport, and create jobs in north Omaha. We have to figure out how to grow affordable housing. So when Senator Stinner last year came up to me and said, hey, here's how this is working, and he broke down how TIF is-- will work in his community with the extra dollars that might come, and it's just talking maybe \$5,000 or \$10,000--

SCHEER: One minute.

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WAYNE: --of why that would make a difference. I said, well, well, that sounds like that could work in my community. At at gas station Mexican taco place, wherever down the street we all go to, to eat, on a napkin we were drafting the amendment. And we came back and we stalled and ran it up to Bill Drafters and put it in, because his area is no different than mine when it comes to figuring out affordable housing. There's a gap there that TIF fills. And if there's still a big enough gap because of the risk, then maybe affordable housing can help with that. Stopping everything versus trying something, we have to try something to move the state forward. It took us over 100 years to get 1 million people. We're losing population. And western Nebraska, you're losing it to Omaha and Omaha is losing it to everywhere else.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Morfeld and Senator Wayne. Seeing no others in the queue, Senator Brewer, you're welcome to close on the nomination.

BREWER: All right. Thank you, Mr. President. I guess I'll start by thanking everyone for that in-depth discussion, but just so everyone remembers that this appointment is to the State Emergency Response Commission, and I would just ask for your support. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. The question before us, the confirmation report from the Government Committee. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee report.

SCHEER: The report is adopted. Senator Brewer for the next confirmation.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. The second nominee today for the Emergency Response Commission is Tim Hofbauer. On March 21, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee met to hear the recommendation from Governor Ricketts to reappoint Tim Hofbauer to the State Emergency Response Commission. Tim is vice chair of the commission currently and is also currently the emergency manager for Platte County. We had a little bit of a-- a different situation in his appointment because he testified via the phone because he was on the ground helping with the ongoing flooding at the time and in order to help him so that he could

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continue that. The committee members present for the hearing was myself, Senators Lowe, Hilgers, Kolowski, Blood, Hunt, and Hansen. Again, Senator La Grone was in Judiciary. In our Exec Session after the hearing, a majority of the committee members who were present recommended to confirm Mr. Hofbauer, his appointment, and later Senator La Grone confirmed his support, giving a final committee vote of 7-0 and 1 to recommend him for this nomination. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Open to discussion. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, you saw this morning what somebody who is determined can do and will do. What Senator Wayne is going to find out is that in the same way they made promises and broke them, they're not going to be giving him time like they're doing today. They have something in mind of their own that is leading to this. Other people are chafing because of what happened. I've been here long enough to observe and know not only what's going on, but I can read the minds of people because I know who owns all of them. When Senator-- not Senator Matt Hansen, the other Hansen, talked about he wants to talk about property tax, that's what I meant when I first laid out the groundwork. You have white people who are interested in white people's interests and that's all. And he wouldn't have to be the only one to talk about that. If he's tired or if it would offend somebody, white people's interests parallel, they intersect, they overlap, there will always be somebody white to speak for white interests. Now the media will write a lot about what Senator Wayne said today. But as time goes on, he's going to be persona non grata if he delivers on what he said. The white media, like everything else, are of, by, and for white people, and I know that. So you don't see me standing on the floor saying the editorial writers wrote this and it wasn't fair or the reporters didn't cover that, it wasn't fair, so the media need to be reined in. White people are interested in white people. When the school cases dealing with segregation were before appellate courts, before they got to the U.S. Supreme Court, there was one particular judge in the South, he said, those who control the money are going to spend it to benefit their children and white people control the money so they're going to put it into white schools, and that means the black children are automatically eliminated, and that's enough to show how violative of the constitution mandatory school segregation is. Whether you read the law, you read encyclopedias, anything you read that relates

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to social issues, political issues, you will see heavily represented the discrimination, the racism, and how many things were done in this country because black people are here. One reason they had so much problem with us and were opposed to eliminating slavery, they said, what are we going to do with all these unwanted people when they're not slaves? You all don't know that, you don't care. Senator Wayne thinks you all care about what he's saying. One thing he missed, I believe in calling names, J. Sterling Morton was one of the biggest racists and was responsible for being against black people having the vote. And you all honor J. Sterling Morton. You white people do it and you've got him, his bust, sitting up in the hall where you honor your great people. They're not great to me. That's why that flag is a rag to me. And I'm the only one who will say it, but others know it. I told you how they make bikinis out of your flag, covering the public areas of women. Why don't complain about that? These bikers and others make bandanas off-- out of them, your flag.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: You don't care about that flag. It gives you a way to attack me over a rag. And if you cared about it, you'd make sure that what it's supposed to symbolize is a reality and it means something. That doesn't stand for freedom and justice for all. You know that. Ask Senator Hunt, is there liberty for her people, her community, is there justice? You all showed how you hate them right here. That's why I say you're a bunch of hypocrites and racists. Senator Wayne is not going to say that. Senator Wayne is new. When Senator Wayne first got selected and Senator Groene voted for him, they were not voting for Senator Wayne. They were voting against the Democrat who was running for that particular Chairmanship and they were punishing everybody else and used Senator Wayne as a stick to beat them with. How would he know that? He's just here. They take advantage of new people. And just like they promised him on that particular issue--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --that he's discussing--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: You said time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Moser, you're recognized.

MOSER: Good morning, colleagues. I wanted to rise in support of the nomination of Tim Hofbauer. I've known Mr. Hofbauer for 30 years or more, and I worked with him at the city of Columbus. I think he's a genuine emergency-management-to-the-core person, and I think he'd do a great job, and I think that his nomination was a very good choice. I just wanted to add that since I have that personal relationship with him. I think he's done a great job as the Platte County emergency management manager, and I've known him personally, like I say, for maybe more than 30 years. I think he would do a great job. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Moser. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, these people here know what I am. Do you think that many people from both sides would be rising to give me time to say what I've got to say? They're trying to placate Senator Wayne right now. They think they can change his mind, that it won't take much. It's up to him to decide what he intends to do. You know that you're not going to placate me. Let me tell Senator Wayne some of the things that they did to me, but I still did things that benefit these white people in the Legislature. Session after session, they changed the rules to try to stop me from talking on the floor. If you read the transcripts, you'll see that I am the one they went after. The editorial writers in those days would acknowledge it. It made no difference. They couldn't stop me but it crippled them. The cloture rule was put in place to stop me. Then I used it in such a way that they said it was a mistake and they shouldn't have done it. They don't think far, white people. They don't have to because they always have the numbers. You can be as dumb as a post when you've got the numbers. Not only did the Legislature change rules, but the white people put in term limits and hurt all of their white representatives to get rid of one black man who, despite how long I live-- I'm not going to live forever. Well, let me correct that. If I am made of the same stuff that others born of a man and woman are made of, I'm not going to live forever. So why gut your government to get rid of one man because you hate him? And that was an issue where the white editorial writers tried to tell the truth and let these fools know how foolish they were and they were fools anyway. I used to try to get the Chairmanship of

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the Judiciary Committee because of my knowledge of the law, the constitution, my concern for the Legislature, and the Lincoln Journal Editorial Board would always support it. The Legislature made sure that not only would I not get it, but they were going to teach me a lesson and they would take people who had no training in the law, who had no interest in the position but they would give that person the Chairmanship thinking that they're going to crush me. Well, I didn't have to be a Chairperson. I didn't have to be any of that. I can do what I want to do under any rule change that's made, and I demonstrated it. I don't need to be a Chairman and I can influence what goes on in committees. When Chairs allow bad bills to get on this floor, I'd kill them. So all of that is what I've done for 44 years, and I'm hoping that Senator Wayne means what he says and will not be aced into thinking that these people can now be trusted. Everybody knows the story of the scorpion and the frog. The scorpion wanted to get across some water and he asked the frog to give him a ride. And the frog said, uh-uh, I'm not going to do that. And the scorpion said, why not? And the frog said, because you will sting me and kill me when you don't need me. The scorpion said, look, I'm different, I'm not going to do that. So the frog looked in the scorpion's eyes, and the scorpion, having been around white legislators, knew how to get that "I'm honest" look in his eyes, so the frog let the scorpion hop on his back. And as they were going across the water and got near the bank, the scorpion stung him. And the frog said, you told me you wouldn't sting me if I gave you a ride and I gave you a ride and you stung me, why did you do that? The scorpion said that's what scorpions do. I know what these people are--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and I know what they will do. They'll look you in the eye and lie. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear more from Senator Chambers. I yield my time.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, 4:50.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam Chairman-- oh, I mean, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madam Cavanaugh. That was a genuine slip. You know how kids say accidentally on purpose. But I've got to say a few more things. When we have all-day sessions, you're going to see how much stamina that I have. I'm the one who alone carried this Legislature to midnight and there were senators who took the position that I took and they asked me if they gave me time, would I take it? I said I certainly will, and they yielded before I did. That LB775, which was the first time they decided to give these big corporations whatever they wanted, they couldn't get past me until one of the senators I trusted betrayed me. What I had did was put so many amendments on that bill they'd never get to it. Loran Schmit is the man. And he said, Senator, will you let me sign onto one of your amendments because I agree with you? I said, sure, Loran, because I trusted him. Well, what happened, since he was now on the amendment, once he was on it and we came to it, he managed to get them to let him withdraw it. That's what he did. And I made it clear at that time. I didn't go lick my wounds. I said it here and I stood up there and looked at all of them out here and let them know what they had done, that I knew what they'd done, and I wouldn't forget it and they'd pay for it. And when I say I'm going to make this Legislature pay, that's what I mean. And you all did some things that offended me. So if Senator Wayne comes to terms with you, that's not the end of it. I promised you this is going to be a rough, rocky session. And you new people need to stay in here and learn something and not run off to your office, learn how it's done and learn what they say about you when you jump up and run out of here right away. But they're not going to say it to you. I try to teach you all and you won't listen because you're foolish. Experience is the best teacher and some will have no other. And while I'm here, that's what I'm going to do. I care more about you all than you care about yourselves. You know why? Because you're better people. You're capable of being better than what you are. Do I really believe that? I don't know whether it's true or not. But it might be and anything that offers a possibility of this body being better than what it is and shows itself to be, I'm going to take that chance and try to do it. I'm going to be talking about something, so I'm going to talk about the things which will stir your pure minds if they're stirrable. Now I know that Senator Halloran's Ag Committee, which should-- that "Ag" should stand for "agony" or "aggravation," you think they care anything about me? Listen. [SNAPS] That's a pop of the finger. They don't care a pop of the finger about me or anything that means anything to me. I, when I go to those Ag meetings, I contribute when there are hearings. You think I think they have any respect for me? I know good and well they don't. So I tell them I know they don't. And sometimes I

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participate more than the other members. That's the way it is ever since I've been here. But I'm here by choice. I know what I'm dealing with. I'll hold my own, and I don't need anything from any of you all. I will take it. And what Senator Wayne is going to learn is that when I make a motion to bracket a bill, I don't talk about the bracket motion. I've told you that's how I jump to the front of the line. I know how to use their rules to have--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --an opportunity to speak when they don't want me to speak. I know motions to make. I know when and how to make a reconsideration motion. I know when to allow a machine vote before I ask for a roll call vote. If you ask for a roll-call vote right away, people are going to vote no who might vote yes if they saw the lights on the board. Let them see other people supporting your bill light up the board and you might get the votes you need. But if you ask for a roll call right away, the cowards are not going to be the first one to break ranks. Learn, but you won't. But I'm going to keep teaching. That's what a teacher does, just like a scorpion does what a scorpion does. Repetition is a part of pedagogy. You must repeat. That's why preachers say the same thing over and over, your heads are so hard. I know what I'm dealing with. I'll keep doing what I must. Now if you all are going to give some time to people, teach Senator Wayne, give me some time. Who's going to give me time? Who will give me time?

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: See, he said "time" but he didn't give me any. [LAUGH]

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman, you're recognized.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning. I haven't spoken yet this morning, but Senator Chambers has provoked some thoughts in my mind. First of all, I had asked Senator Chambers a couple years ago, with all his ability, why did he not stop LB775? And he said, even with his ability, he couldn't do that. I would have appreciated it very much if he would have been very successful on LB775. But he didn't. I will agree with Senator Chambers on another thing. Term limits, term limits were put in place to eliminate Ernie Chambers from this Legislature. It

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was a bad decision. It was a decision that people voted for because they thought they were going to get rid of the representation that north-- that Omaha had. That was a mistake. If the people in Omaha want to vote for Senator Chambers or whoever, who am I to tell them not to vote that way? We have term limits. We had them before. We have constitutional term limits, and that every four years your term expired, and at the end of that four years you stood for re-election. You didn't like the representation you had, find somebody to run against them and help them get elected. That's how it worked. That's how it should work. So what we've done here is we have term limits. All the institutional knowledge and history of what we've done for years and years and years is gone. The people who have been here for years and years, the lobbyists, now have more influence than ever because of term limits. Senator Chambers also talked about this morning the Bible verse about when Jesus was talking to the guy who had-- his daughter was home sick and dying and said, please, heal my daughter. And Jesus said, I'll come to your house. And he said-- Senator Chambers said, no, you don't need to, just speak the word. And Senator Chambers didn't get it exactly right, because Jesus said, such faith I have not seen in Israel. That's what he said. The guy had faith. I have faith that we will get some things done here irregardless of what was said this morning. And I would hope that we would move on from this and learn from what we've done and make decisions based on what makes sense and what doesn't. As Senator Wayne talked about, my property bill-- valuation bill is coming up. I understand that. He has to do what he has to do. OK? But going forward, we need to do what best represents the people who sent us here and make decisions that we can be proud of when we get back home. So with that said, I hope we get a chance to vote on Senator Brewer's confirmation of-- of this emergency management person. I appreciate Senator Moser sharing with us his experience with him so that we know we have the right guy. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we know that I'm only going to have an opportunity to speak three times on this. Now Senator Lowe is sitting there grinning like a Cheshire cat. You know why I say the Cheshire cat? That was one created by Lewis Carroll, Lutwidge Dodgson, that's the way I like to pronounce his name, Alice in Wonderland or Through the Looking Glass. And he had one of the most creative minds of people from England who wrote stories. And if you all delved into something more than just the one who wrote the story,

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you'd see that this Alice that he wrote the stories for was a real, living little girl. And he had an inappropriate relationship with little Alice. That's a fact. You all don't know that because you don't go behind the surface. The Cheshire cat was the one where he grinned and pretty soon there was nothing left except the grin. Senator Lowe gave time to Senator Wayne. See, I was going to see if somebody would help me. The only one who helped me was Senator Hunt. Look, I'm 82 years old. I can forget something just like that. You don't know whether I've really forgotten or whether I'm just trying to get your attention. When somebody speaks as much as I do, you don't pay attention. But it's transcribed and it's there forever, and there are people who watch and will not discount it just because I'm saying it. But when there is a person who speaks the way I do, what will catch your attention, if in the middle of the speaking there comes silence. When I speak, silence gets your attention. When the person who never speaks stands up, the speaking is what gets your attention. I've studied you all. I know you better than you know yourselves. Nothing is going to be changed by what was said this morning. The racism is still going to be here. The legislators are still going to violate their word. They still are going to do what the Governor tells them to do. And if things get too hot, the Governor will call some of his flunkies and tell them, you can give ground on this because I need to have some time in the legislative session to deal with my tax bills that I want. And when he calls you aside and tells you, you are allowed to do this, you're going to vote differently, because that's your master. They had a commercial and this little dog, he may have been a pit bull, he was lying beside one of these old gramophones and under the bottom of it, the words, "his master's voice." Here, you say his or her master's voice and it sits over there in that north corner of the building. And when he calls, they listen. You know what a dog whistle is. It is at a frequency where you have to have especially constructed hearing apparatus to hear the sound. His dog whistle is for those whom-- for whom it is intended, and they hear that dog whistle and they respond. And if you all pay attention, you will see who they are. But even if you come to terms with Senator Wayne--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --you have not come to terms with me. And I have some issues and one of them is the hardhearted cruelty that you showed in saying that some people don't need to get food, let them get a job. Well, let these farmers get a job, let those people flooded out get a job. When those bills come, watch and see what happens and we're going to see if the rules change for your

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kind of people, the ones you care about, the ones you know, that you think are worthy of having food, the ones who deserve food. I'd give a dog food if the dog was hungry. I throw food out. I don't even know what comes in the night to eat it. But I buy stale bread-- well, it's not stale. I buy it. It's cheap because it's a few days old. I dry it out and I throw it out at night and in the morning it's always gone. Maybe human beings come get it. I don't think so though. But there are different creatures--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers, and that was your third time. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Yeah, so looking at the clock and making sure we don't go over noon, I did give my word to Senator Brewer that this confirmation report should happen. But I also acknowledged to Senator Chambers that I would yield him time this morning, so I'm going to keep my word on both and yield him my time, not push a queue, and that should take us to almost 11:58, and the vote should happen. So with that, I'll yield my time to Senator Chambers.

WILLIAMS: Senator Chambers, you're yielded 4:30.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Thank you, Mr. President. And to demonstrate collegiality, not really collegiality, but I don't have anything against Senator Brewer right now that I'm worried about. There is something on the table between us. But I'm going to thank Senator Wayne for his time and he did make a commitment and I will not do anything to break that. So I appreciate the time, but I will not use it all. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senators Wayne and Senator Chambers. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Brewer, you are recognized to close on your confirmation report.

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BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Wayne. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Let's go back real briefly and just remember that we are here today to do a confirmation on Tim Hofbauer. He's the emergency-- State Emergency Management Response Commission appointee. Again, he was the one that we did a telephone interview with because he was on the ground responding to the flooding at the time. He has been on the State Emergency Response Commission since 2006 and also is a member of the SERC team. So with that said, sir, I would ask that we approve his nomination. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Brewer. The question is the adoption of the report offered by the Government Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

WILLIAMS: The report is adopted. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Mr. President, Business and Labor reports LB178 to General File, LB428, LB464, General File with amendments. I also have a confirmation report from the Business and Labor Committee. New A bill, LB719A by Senator Hughes. (Read LB719A by title for the first time.) Amendments to be printed: Senator Blood to LB138; Senator Wayne, a motion to LB619; Senator Wayne, bill amendment, LB270, LB269; Senator Hansen to LB217; Senator Wayne, LB356, LB524, LB270. And a new resolution, LR70-- LR64 by Senator Scheer. It'll be laid over at this time. A series of name adds: Senator Halloran to LB15; Vargas, LB86; Vargas, LB252; Vargas, LB641; Lowe, LB15.

Mr. President, Senator Lathrop would move to adjourn the body until Tuesday, April 2, at 9:00 a.m.

WILLIAMS: Members, you've heard the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.