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Floor Debate  
April 03, 2019

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LINDSTROM: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fifty-second day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Reverend Rebecca Sheridan from Bethel Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska, in Senator Howard's district. Please rise.

REVEREND SHERIDAN: (Prayer offered.)

LINDSTROM: Thank you. I call to order the fifty-second 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.

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

CLERK: I have no corrections.

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

CLERK: Mr. President, I have neither messages, reports, nor announcements at this time.

LINDSTROM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now proceed to the first item on the agenda. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File, LB243. Senator Slama, I have no amendments to the bill.

LINDSTROM: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB243 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

LINDSTROM: You have all heard the motion. All those in favor-- excuse me. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill is not going to slide through that easily. I said I'm going to take time on it, and I intend to do that, and there's something that I want to explain to the body. We have new people here who think that they're smart. When you put a child in an adult world, the child doesn't understand adult ways, and a person can be a child when that person is as old as I am. We're going to get down to it. I am not going to allow a principle of the rules be cast aside just because I didn't make a big issue of it yesterday. Do you know why the matter of germaneness came up on my offering of an amendment? Because I brought it up. I explained why it was not-- why it was germane. I explained that. It has been done countless times. I have a bill that I've offered several times to do away with mountain lion hunting. Senator Hughes has had it bottled up in his committee. Senator Schilz had bottled it in his committee. What I had done was to strip everything out of various bills and offered to substitute my mountain lion bill. That was not a violation of the germaneness rule because I was not trying to amend the text of the bill. All that was left was the number. Even the title was no longer there. This has been done, and bills have been enacted into law in that fashion and the Supreme Court has not struck them down. When I mention germaneness, then in the peanut gallery people jumped up and said, oh, this is not germane. That's why I asked Senator Gragert who brought it up. When we have people in the Chair, they need to have an understanding and awareness of the rules and how things have been done. That is a practice that has gone on ever since I've been in this Legislature. A person will strike everything from a bill and the amendments thereto, and offer to substitute something else for it. The offering doesn't mean that it will be accepted, but it is not a violation of the germaneness rule. But if that game is going to be played with me, it's going to be played with reference to every bill that I have time to draft that amendment to. You all are not going to toy with me. And if you're a female and you don't want to be dealt with as a senator, then don't be one. But when you're treated like every other senator, don't whine and say, well, it's because I'm a woman. I would do more to help women with my little finger than some of these people would do their whole life, and I have a record to confirm it. But I'm not going to try to justify myself to a child. There are things that the media need to have brought to their attention because they don't properly write about these matters. If they did their research, they would know that that practice that I mentioned, as a practice, and I used it as a tactic yesterday, is something that has been used over and over and over in this Legislature.

LINDSTROM: One minute.

CHAMBERS: But here's how you can try to stop somebody like me. You can put somebody in the Chair who will make rulings, then the majority will support that person. And you won that one, but all you did was made it necessary for me to use some other means, and that's what I'm going to do on this bill that's before us now. And I have my light on, so I've got time to craft either a motion or an amendment. And now in view of what happened yesterday, I can tell you

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that it was not my intention to deal with every bill, or every other bill, or the bills of all those who voted against Senator Hunt's bill, but circumstances alter cases, and don't make a mistake.

LINDSTROM: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

LINDSTROM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Doctor of the day and visitors introduced.) Returning to debate, Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I can speak whether the Chamber is empty or whether it's full because whether you all are here or not, you cannot stop the endless flight of time. That's something that old Faustus was wishing that he could do after he made a deal. He never talked directly to the devil. He talked to a minion, and when time came for Faustus to pay off, like people around here, they wanted to bargain and negotiate, but then it was too late. Faustus even said, if I could only change into a drop of water and be absorbed into the ocean, if I could stop those horses that represent the movement of time, only he said it far more poetically. It was written by Christopher Marlowe that particular version that I'm referring to. Gerda had written maybe the original one. But what people will tend to do is act a certain way, then they want to escape the consequences of their action. So when you decide to address something to me, understand what you're letting yourself in for. Now, ordinarily, I would give a new person time to catch on to what's happening, how things are done to understand the rules and that not everything is written in the rule book. There are practices that exist. But now, if a youngster's going to rise up even in the animal kingdom, don't come between a mother bear and her cubs, but don't let a cub get out of line with the mother bear. Now, the mother bear will stop anybody else from harming that cub, but for the cub's own survival, the mother bear will cuff the cub to make the cub understand that is not to be done. If you do it out there in the wider world, you're life will come to an end. I have said, this, where we find ourselves now in terms of time, is the second half of the session. This is part two. We are now in all-day sessions, and I had told you all that when you were in your glory and yakety-yakking to run out the time on bills that you didn't like, knowing that the introducer could not get 33 votes, that you were establishing the rule of the game according to which the game will be played. Maybe nobody else picked up on it, or maybe nobody else is willing to invoke that rule. But the reason I'm smarter than most people is because I learn from everybody. I never think that I know all there is to know. I read the dictionary. They have a set of encyclopedias in the research division, which maybe nobody else knows and nobody on this floor cares about, but the things written in that set of encyclopedias is not obsolete just because they're not printing those types of things but are rather putting them on these gadgets. Gadgets are for you all. I like the heft and feel of a book. I like to turn pages. I like to linger over that page and not have light reflecting or shining into my eyes.

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LINDSTROM: One minute.

CHAMBERS: I am old school, and some people think that because I'm old, there's a word that rhymes with it. And if you use the two words, old school, and you think in rhyme like I do, automatically would jump into your mind, old fool. But you should not make the mistake of underestimating somebody with whom you're going to have to contend, somebody who is relentless, somebody who is merciless when dealing with those who have shown no mercy. That's what you're going to see, and I'm not going to tell you in advance everything that I intend to do. You will see it when I do it, and I'm going to offer on other bills the same motion that I offered--

LINDSTROM: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

LINDSTROM: Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. First of all, Appropriations Committee will have an Executive Session at 9:45 in Room 2022. Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to recommit LB243.

LINDSTROM: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on your motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to let you all know that I think part of my job is to instruct and inform you on issues of the day. In this morning's paper, there's a headline on page 1(b) of the World-Herald. Lincoln diocese, nine priests accused of sexual abuse of children. I was on this matter before this Legislature in the early part of this decade. I talked about it on the floor. I wrote articles about how vicious the Catholic church is, and I called it the church because the top dogs knew about it, especially Benedict XVI who was known as Joseph Ratzinger before he took that new title. He had been the top dog in Germany, and he hung out in Berlin, and that's where some of the worst child abuse in Europe had occurred. It was on his watch that an order they have in the Vatican of young men who were being trained to be priests in America, and they were sexually abused in Rome in the Vatican. And Ratzinger knew it. The problem that the church has now, but if somebody trying to clean out the nastiness and filth is that Francis is admitting what I talked about down through the years that this has been going on from the top of most levels, and I have some reading material. One of the items is going to be a transcript of a conversation I had with the second in line from the Omaha FBI office. The main man had gone on vacation or some place and did not want to appear before the Judiciary

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Committee because I'm a member. And there was a member who said that all the members of the Judiciary Committee apologized to her, Senator Geist, that is, and they came to me and said that's not so. So she told an untruth, she fibbed. The Bible would call it a lie. And when she came to me, I told her, you make yourself too important. You need to see how I deal with other people who bring bills to the Judiciary Committee. And when you come before that committee or any committee that I sit on, expect me to ask questions, but you will not always be able to anticipate precisely what those questions will be. You will not be able to anticipate which bills I may have no questions on that you may have thought I would ask a stream of questions on. I act in accord with my own agenda. Nobody dictates to me. There are prosecutors who don't want to come before the Judiciary Committee. So you know what the County Attorney's Association has done? Now they spread that responsibility among different individuals so the same one doesn't have to take the heat. They've even sent some young ones who didn't know what they were in for, that my feeling is that if you get in the ring you're expected to know that you should protect yourself at all times. And when you are coming before that committee dealing with very significant issues, don't expect me to deal with kid gloves, but don't expect me to always have a bare-knuckle approach. A lot of it may depend on how the testifier presents himself or herself, and I don't care what other committee members may do or not do. They are not me. I and Popeye are one. I'll identify with the spinach-chewing, pipe-stem chewing but never smoking, sailor, Popeye. I am what I am, and that's all that I am, but I will always be that. You can count on it. And I don't care what kind of little cliques, claques, or other collections of legislators get together to stop me. Now, you can, since you have the majority here, get whoever sits in the Chair to rule the way you want to, and the Chair will be upheld by the rest of you. But you cannot abrogate all of the rules in one fell swoop. And I can come back like Dracula again and again and again. Now, a message and a lesson because I don't want Senator Lowe to stare and not have something directed exactly at him. Senator Lowe, if I take a rubber ball, and there's a stone wall behind you, and I throw that ball with a certain velocity, that ball will hit that wall and bounce back. Now, I cannot calculate the speed of that ball in my head, but there are people who can take those numbers, determine the makeup of the ball, and tell you how fast that ball is going to come back. But there is one thing that says every action produces an equal and opposite reaction. So that might be a clue. When you all throw something at me, expect something to bounce back at you. Senator Gragert took advice yesterday, and he was misled. Senator Williams sat in the Chair and he lacked knowledge. When you sit up there and you don't know and you do something that shows the lack of knowledge, I'm going to mention it. That's a part of my role as a member of this Legislature. I'm here voluntarily, but I'm going to try to make it better than what it was when I came here and better than what it is right now, trying to draw something out of you all that you have not manifested. And maybe it will succeed, and maybe it won't, but I will have done what I believe I ought to do. Today, I've got to make sure that we run the limit on Senator Gragert's bill. He and I had had a few words about his bill, and I told him I didn't have a great amount of concern about it. When he presented it to the agony committee and I'm a member, I complimented some of the people who testified about their view and their concern

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about the future and a desire to make something better down the line than what it currently is, and how the ground, the earth must be preserved. It must be respected. He just happened to have made a misstep and put himself in a position where I am compelled to respond and react. And I let people know when you all were in your glory, and you didn't apologize for it. Senator Groene, as pointed out by Senator Wayne the other day, said that he was not going to lead the filibuster if there was to be one, but if somebody else wanted to lead it he would join it. That's how you pussyfoot. See, some people, they are so good at pussyfooting, you could stretch a piano keyboard from the Atlantic Ocean--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --to the Pacific Ocean and they could dance all the way across that keyboard without striking a note, and that's pussyfooting. We are grown people here, and some people who had a way of arguing and growling at people are going to settle down when they get argued at and growled back at, and they're going to talk about collegiality. You don't know the meaning of collegiality, and you can't look it up in the dictionary because it has too many syllables. Now how do you like that? When you can have somebody in the Chair misinterpreting and applying the rules, and the majority of you go along, it's all of you against me and me against all of you, and we'll see who's going to win because you don't control the clock and the passage of time. The Speaker has already established one rule, and we'll see if it applies.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing discussion on the recommit motion. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. My, my, my, welcome back, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I have missed you, believe it or not, but I'm not going to miss the next person in the Chair who misapplies the rules. Now, what I'm doing right now is crafting my next motion. I'm going to talk my times, and you all will vote against recommitting it. You think I care. Not in the least. All I want to do is take time, and the rules allow me to do that, and you cannot abrogate all of them. So, you know what my next motion is? To reconsider your vote on my recommit motion. And a reconsideration motion is a priority motion, but if somebody wants to make other motions such as to amend, I'm willing to share the floor. But I want you all to know that this old man does not need any help from you young whippersnappers who dragged out of here yesterday. They commented in the lobby. Senator Chambers, you're the oldest one there. When your colleagues were coming out they looked like they had been through the wringer, but here you are bouncing

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out of here. No, I didn't say this, but I could have. Well, they were on the wrong end of the punches. So Senator Gragert, your tutor, your mentor, may tell you some things, but I'm going to tell you something myself. I won't get tired, and I will not run out of things to say. And as William Lloyd Garrison said, I will be heard. So some things I'll let you know in advance. You can plan your day accordingly. So you can all run out of here, but then I will ask for a call of the house, and I don't have to get 25 votes for that. All I need to do is get a majority of the people here. Often there will not be a quorum, but business needs to continue, so if there are three people and two vote for a call of the house, all of you come back. And if you don't come back, they can authorize or demand that the State Patrol go and find you and bring you back. Oh, you didn't know that? That has happened once before also in this Legislature. You all don't know it. You don't read the rule books. You haven't been here long enough, and you think what you did on the outside is going to work here, and you think you're smarter than you are. Maybe you are as smart as you think you are, but I don't think you're smarter than I am. And we have the opportunity to test that. And let's start testing it today. And let's test who has got the stamina and who will continue and continue and continue. You're looking at somebody who makes the declaration that he, moi, will do so. And if I were sitting around like you all are, I would make somebody who made that claim put up or shut up. But you all don't want to challenge me, do you? Because some of you know and you may have heard how I've been the one who would take us to 11:30 at night and be mocking the senators, telling that they ought to look around the Chamber. They haven't done anything, but they're tired from resting. They are tired from resting, and I have done all the work. And I get energized.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And all I'm doing is taking time. Now, if you want to get to the next bill quickly, you'll vote to recommit this bill to committee. And we'll be through with Senator Gragert's bill for today. Maybe for the session, I don't know. I'm not a fortune teller. However, if the Speaker's rule is applied, you get a certain amount of time on General File. I was opposed to setting up a rule like that, and it's not in the books, it's just out there. You know why? Because you all can get rid of legislation you don't like, and it will only get three hours of debate. Three hours in the whole session because you know the introducer cannot get 33 votes. So I cannot stop you from getting your bill back on.

FOLEY: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: But I can certainly do something about taking it off.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized for your third opportunity.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Gragert, you can find out how much time you have left if you want to know how much more misery you'll be in this morning, but I would advise you not to get too attached to anything you offer in this Legislature. Don't let it be one of those situations where you are so identified with your bill that in accord with some superstitious notions, a dowel can be made of you, and if I stick a pin in the dowel, wherever the pin sticks the dowel, you feel the pain. Don't let that bill be a representation of you. And when that bill is torqued and twisted and mutilated, that's not you. This is not even about you. Your bill just happens to be the first one that came up when the new order was being implemented. And I'm implementing the new order that you all sowed the seeds for, and I warned you, and you disregarded it. So I take your disregarding it as a challenge. You think I can't do what I say that I shall do, and I know what I'm able to do. If I were a boxer and I weigh 147 pounds, and Muhammad Ali weighs over 200 pounds, they might say, pound for pound, Chambers is the best fighter in the world. Do you know why they say it like that? Fighting little men like himself, he can do more with them and to them than any fighter in any division can do with the fighters in his or her division, but don't put that pound for pound in it. And then you come down to the reality. Little man, you weigh 147 pounds, stay in the welterweight division. Slightly larger man, you are middleweight, you weigh 160 pounds, stay where you are. Light heavyweight, 175, stay where you are. Cruiserweight, and that can vary, but it's between heavyweight and light heavyweight. But heavyweight is where there's no limit. You can be as big as a sumo and fight heavyweight. So little people need to understand what their limitations are, but there were some small men such as Sugar Ray Robinson, who handled much bigger men than he, himself was. Joe Louis who was a heavyweight, knocked out men bigger and heavier than he was. So keep in mind that other maxim. It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog. A foolish fighter will try to match punch for punch for a puncher and get knocked out. A smart puncher who is big, but also a boxer, will be like Muhammad Ali and make the other man wear himself out. White people were praying that George Foreman would whip Muhammad Ali because when black athletes were protesting at one of the Olympics, George Foreman walked around the ring carrying an American flag. That's what we call a local Tom in a sellout. That's what he was doing carrying the American flag so he became an American hero. When he fought Muhammad Ali white people were praying that he would knock the stuffing out of Muhammad Ali or, as we say, beat the stew out of him. So Ali developed a tactic that would work on big, dumb Uncle Toms who had all the white people cheering for him--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --but couldn't be in the ring with him. And Ali would back up on the ropes and cover and bob and weave, and George Foreman would throw those humongous punches. They were so heavy that the wind from it blew the hat off one of the sportscasters at ringside but he didn't land it on Muhammad Ali. And Muhammad Ali's trainers had not been informed in advance. And they told him, champ, get off the ropes, get off the ropes. And you know what Ali

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did at one point? He turned toward them and he winked. He winked. And there's George Foreman throwing those humongous punches and hitting the air. Then around the eighth round, Ali had turned the tables and George Foreman was on the ropes, and Ali had his head on George Foreman's chest. And he said, George, sounds and seems like to me, you're tired.

FOLEY: Time's up.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your recommit motion.

CHAMBERS: George Foreman was tired, and Ali told him, George, this is the last place and the worst place to get tired. And then Ali stepped back, applied the quietus and knocked out American's hero. The American flag could not save him. He went beyond what he was able to do. Ali knew what he was able to do, but he told people that he had limitations. Excuse me. [cough] My mother taught me manners. They were trying to get Muhammad Ali to fight George Foreman and Ali took that fight. Then they wanted him to fight Wilt Chamberlain who is a 7-foot tall basketball player. And Ali had a way of giving a nickname to the people he fought and it also was a forecast of how he was going to deal with them. So they were sitting at the table discussing what the terms of this fight would be. And all of the people told Ali, Ali, this will be the biggest fight in history, don't say or do anything to mess it up. So Ali just kind of sat there and got that little twinkle in his eye and that smile. And here comes Wilt Chamberlain, they call him Wilt the Stilt. He probably had the scoring record in basketball for scoring the most points in a game. He may have scored 100 points in one game, but when Wilt the Stilt came into the room, he had to duck to enter the door. And when Ali saw him, Ali looked up at Wilt Chamberlain, and all he said was one word, timber. And Wilt the Stilt turned around and left the room. And the fight never took place. All Ali said was, timber. And it brought reality home to Wilt Chamberlain, and Wilt was thinking about fighting him. Now how about a small man whom people wanted to fight the heavyweight champion. Floyd Patterson was a very good boxer, a heavyweight, but he's on the "smalley" side, but he still was a heavyweight. Sugar Ray Robinson was at his zenith. That's the pinnacle, the apex, the top of his game, and they were trying, the boxing world, to arrange a match between Sugar Ray Robinson and Floyd Patterson. And Sugar Ray was sitting at the table, because they always negotiated at tables. He said, it would be foolish for somebody as small as I am to get in the ring with Floyd Patterson. And they said, why is that, Ray? He said, I weigh 160 pounds. I might can get up to 165 or 168 without slowing myself down. Floyd Patterson is a heavyweight. He may as well be 250 pounds. Me, fighting somebody like him. Then they started calculating how much money would come. Closed-circuit television, guarantees, and as those zeros continue to be put to the right of the one, then Sugar Ray began to think. And they said, Sugar Ray, what's going through your mind right now? He

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said, the more you talk about that money, the more Floyd Patterson starts to look like Tom Thumb.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And that's what I say. When people want to woof at me, I don't care how big they are. The louder they woof, the more they start to look like Tom Thumb. You don't know what Tom Thumb can do, but you ought to take note if Tom Thumb doesn't start running when you stomp your big foot on the ground and raise some dust and raise your voice, and usually can get other people to take off running. Some men don't know how to run backward, but they know how to duck and run into. I'm going to ask for a call of the house when I get through, drag all you in here wherever you are, because I own you. Because I'm using your rules and I know how to apply them. I'll ask for a roll call vote so it will be clear that I'm not voting and I've already got my reconsideration motion here, so none of you have to vote with me on anything.

FOLEY: It's time.

CHAMBERS: Vote no and stay friends with anybody. However you vote won't make any difference to me. Thank you, Mr. President. I will ask for a roll call vote after a call of the house.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There's been a request to place the house under call. The question is shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 5 nays to place the house under call.

FOLEY: The house is under call. Senators, please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. All members please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. Senator Howard, if you can check in. Senator Groene, if you can check in. Waiting for Senators Pansing Brooks and Senator La Grone. Please return to the Chamber and check in. Senator Pansing Brooks, please return to the floor. The house is under call. Senator Chambers, we're lacking Senator Pansing Brooks. We'll wait. All unexcused members are now present. The question for the body is Senator Chambers' motion to recommit the bill to committee. A roll call vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 0 ayes, 46 nays on the motion to recommit.

FOLEY: The recommit motion is not successful. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote with respect to recommitting the bill to committee.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your reconsideration motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I will quote Abraham Lincoln when he was writing to one of those racists who could have sat in this Legislature as to why he issued the Emancipation Proclamation and that he thought it was constitutional. He had said to this white guy, you don't think that black men, that white men should have to fight for black men. He said, well, there are black men who seem willing to fight for you and other white people because black men were in the military then. You think that I should not have issued this proclamation. I believe that I should have. You say it's unconstitutional. I say that I disagree. And then he pointed out that he had made a promise that if the black men fought, then they would be able to get their freedom to the extent that it could be granted by an order of the President. And this white man was put in his place by other things that Lincoln wrote. He didn't spend a lot of time in a classroom, but he spent a lot of time in books, and he was one of the most logical thinkers whoever sat in the White House, bar none. He was, in my opinion, the best writer, and I don't exclude Thomas Jefferson who is supposed to be pretty good with a pen. He was the best writer, whoever sat in the White House, and he exemplified the principle that brevity is the soul of, not wit, wisdom. He was not trying to be witty because it's easier to be witty than wise. He was being very precise, very specific and logical, and nobody's been able to fault his logic. He believed in laying out his premises, major, minor and arrived at the inescapable conclusion, and he gave factual underpinnings along the way. He talked about how his military leaders, his generals, were appreciative of the fact that they had black troops, and how they won battles, which they would not have won without those troops. How they were now holding territory that the confederates had only because of the black troops, and then he made a declaration that established that black men provided the balance of power in that war. If we would give up every bit of land that black soldiers won for us and that now they hold for us, we could give up the effort because we would lose the war in a matter of weeks. Without the black troops the union would not have existed, and you all don't want to acknowledge that. Black people saved your country. Black people have saved your bacon. Black people were the backbone of the economy of this country, and only in America were the two concepts of labor and capital married in the same person. The labor was also capital. He was owned. He was bought. He was sold. He was abused. I heard something when I was coming down here about the way members of ISIS had mistreated these people that they had run out of the country, had raped the women, and people think that's horrible, but your country was founded by rapists. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry were rapists, just like those ISIS individuals. They raped black women. They raped little black girls. They produced babies on these young girls and women and then sold their children as commodities. Thomas Jefferson was a rapist. Sally Hemings was his choice, and for decades and generations white people tried to say that never happened, that it was

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probably Thomas Jefferson's brother. Now it has been acknowledged by everybody as it was well-known at the time. And now the two families have family gatherings, and the Jeffersons did not want that because they did not want it established in that blatant of fashion that old Tom was really a sex trafficker and a rapist. George Washington was a racist and a sex trafficker. Patrick Henry was a racist, rapist, and a sex trafficker. They raped black women and black girls. And when I was a child they taught me that these were great men. They didn't tell me that they were raping the girls like those in my neighborhood that were my playmates that I would fight to defend. And these guys that they telling me are great were raping girls like that. James Madison. There was another President named Johnson. This time not Lyndon, who was a slaveholder. Andrew Jackson, whom the President thinks ought to be on the \$20 bill where he is now instead of Harriet Tubman, who was supposed to be on that bill. So when Lincoln was President, he expressed ideas and practiced them that others did not. And he wrote in such a clear fashion that even a fool could not err, and he concluded his letter to this racist who was upset that he issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Black men like other men work from motive. The promise being made must be kept, even the promise of freedom. But Abraham Lincoln was flawed. Every person is flawed. I am flawed. My greatest flaw is that I'm aging. A little differently from the way other people age, but nevertheless, I am aging. Every second I spend on this side is a second less that I'll spend on the other side. But today, Senator Lowe, I set a world record. I'm older today than I've ever been in my life. I got that from Bob Kerrey, the former Governor and he said I could make use of it whenever I chose to. I believe in giving credit to those from whom I borrow. I made a promise to you all and that promise being made must be kept. And I'm going to keep it. And I am not going to betray what it is that I believe--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and why I know that I'm here. I'm not here to be somebody's plaything. I'm not a yo-yo at the end of a string where if somebody who knows how to use a yo-yo can throw it down and it will linger at the bottom of the string and spin, then you give a flick of the finger and the yo-yo rolls back up the string back to the hand. No matter how many times you do the loop or round the world or three or four leaf clover or make the little cradle, when you decide to bring the yo-yo back to your hand, you still are in control. That yo-yo cannot go beyond the end of that string and it will do everything the yo-yo master makes it do. Some people make a mistake. And because they have contempt for a group of people, they think every member of that group--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --can be mishandled, mistreated, and will behave like a yo-yo.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator. Time's up.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing discussion. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. I thought I would take a little time since Senator Chambers is taking time this morning and take a break and I'd highlight that this is Sexual Assault Awareness month and I wanted to share some information that was shared with me in the Omaha World-Herald recently in regards to sexual abuse in Nebraska. This is an article from February 27, 2019. Subpoena for sex abuse records are being served on Catholic parishes across Nebraska. Nebraska Attorney General, Doug Peterson, is not just asking for Catholic church sex abuse records anymore, he's demanding them. Peterson's office has subpoenaed, served Tuesday on more than 400 Catholic parishes, schools, and other institutions across Nebraska. The subpoenas demanded all records or information related to any child sexual assault or abuse that has occurred by those employed or associated with each church or institution, whether previously reported or not, the Attorney General's Office said. Law enforcement officers spanned out across the expanse of Nebraska to hand deliver the papers beginning Tuesday morning. It was comprehensive in its reach, says Suzanne Gage, a spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office. The archdiocese of Omaha issued a statement that said it is cooperating with the subpoenas. The archdiocese of Omaha is aware of the subpoenas that have been issued to Nebraska Catholic schools and parishes, the statement said. We are cooperating with the Attorney General's Office and we are in communication with the Attorney General about the time line to respond and the scope of the subpoenas. Grand Island Bishop Joseph Hanefeldt said the diocese received the subpoenas, but viewed that as a step unnecessary because of its diocese's voluntary cooperation. Hanefeldt said the diocese would continue to share information with the state's authorities to bring this investigation to a conclusion. The Lincoln diocese said in a statement that it has voluntarily cooperated with the investigation since it was announced last September, and pledged its ongoing support to stop criminal behavior by predators. It is reviewing its subpoena. Peterson last year had asked Nebraska's three Roman Catholic bishops to voluntarily give them records of sex abuse from the past 40 years. The bishops of Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island had sent Peterson files. In Omaha, Archbishop George Lucas made many of those records public. It's unclear why Peterson escalated the request into a legal order to produce documents and expand it beyond diocesan headquarters to individual parishes and schools. The Attorney General's Office said in a statement that it appreciated the voluntary handing over of some records, but still felt the need for the subpoenas. The office believes that the subpoenas are necessary in order to ensure all reports of impropriety have been submitted to the appropriate authorities. It is our goal that all reports of abuse are subject to complete law enforcement review and investigation as warranted, the statement said. Gage, the Attorney General spokeswoman, said she couldn't expand further on why the office issued the subpoenas. Similar probes in other states have led to grand jury investigations or criminal charges. Asked

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where the Nebraska probe is headed, Gage said she could not speculate. An Omaha archdiocese official had described a record search back in December as thorough, albeit conducted internally. A seven-member committee composed almost entirely of clergy, there was one woman on the committee, all with backgrounds in church or canon law went through more than 100 years of personnel files. The committee then essentially divided their findings into two groups. 38 names of priests and deacons who had been credibly accused of sexual abuse or misdeeds involving a minor and 100 more names were claims that were not as clear-cut. The second group was not made public and alleged offenses included claims involving adults, clergy men, or Catholic school teachers who had affairs or unsubstantiated claims against clergy men who are now dead. The first group of names was made public--

FOLEY: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. --in December. The Reverend Scott Hastings, vicar for clergy of the Omaha archdiocese called the list-- that list of accused a living document and said it was likely to change as public encouragement encouraged more victims to come forward. There are others beyond the 38. He asked them, it's more than 38. In early December the Lincoln diocese said a lay board of men and women was operating independently of the diocese to review prior allegations of clergy sexual misconduct or abuse. I'm going to end there and just say that I appreciate the Attorney General's efforts in this investigation. This is important. Children are extremely vulnerable and to leave it in the hands of those who have covered this up for decades was not appropriate, and I appreciate the work of the Attorney General's Office on this very important issue and I want the victims of this to know that they are cared about.

FOLEY: It's time, Senator.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. President, and good morning, colleagues. Colleagues, I am in support of LB243, but while we had a little extra time this morning, I wanted to address two handouts I sent to the body. Monday, April 1 of this week was one year out for the census, which a lot of groups and organizations use to promote as Census Awareness Day. As we kind of base know from a base intro to government level, the census is a rather important and pretty unique operation of our government. And as such, I passed out two handouts. One is from the University of Nebraska-Omaha illustrating the overall importance of the 2020 census and its impact to Nebraska. Obviously, it impacts everything from representation to allocations of federal dollars and as such is something that we really encourage communities,

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individuals, citizens, advocacy groups to really focus on because having an accurate and complete census is a really important thing that I think will very clearly pay dividends in the future. And related to that, I passed out a handout from the National League of Cities, which was five ways to prepare your city for the next year's census. I know we all represent kind of a unique and different areas of the state and have a lot of different local and community leaders we interact with. The reason I passed out the thing on the-- from the National League of Cities was to encourage my colleagues to reach out to your local officials, see what plans they have for the census, see if there is anything you can assist with or they can do or you have exciting your communities. I know here in Lincoln, Lincoln and Lancaster County are forming a joint effort to promote the census in our area and I'm really appreciative of their efforts. With that, I rise in continued support of Senator Gragert's LB243 and thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Matt Hansen. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in opposition to the reconsideration, but I would ask that Senator Chambers yield to a question.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, will you yield, please?

CHAMBERS: Yes.

BLOOD: Senator Chambers, it's my understanding that you like history. Would that be accurate?

CHAMBERS: I love history.

BLOOD: So, although you don't like gadgets and doohickeys, I may have misquoted that part, we get a weekly or daily alert in our e-mail boxes in reference to state history from the Nebraska State Historical Society. Are you aware of that?

CHAMBERS: You said a publication from the State Historical Society, I'm aware of that.

BLOOD: Do you know who Francis Burt is?

CHAMBERS: No. He wasn't the body snatcher was he?

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BLOOD: No, Francis Burt was the first governor for the Nebraska territory and it was always his intention to make my community, the city of Bellevue, the capital of Nebraska, and it was the intent to make Bellevue actually bigger than Omaha. Could you believe that?

CHAMBERS: Yes. If you even suggest it, I believe it must be a fact.

BLOOD: And so what happened was he was coming from the state he was originally from, which was one of the Carolinas, and I can't remember which one, or maybe Tennessee, but not Nebraska, and he had stomach ailment that prevented him from coming to Nebraska and he died. And so Thomas Cuming took his place and as a result, he had friends and business acquaintances in Omaha and Bellevue got left out and now Omaha is our biggest metropolis. And so the question I have for you, Senator, is are you aware that I have LB15 on the agenda today? I think it's the eighth day on the agenda.

CHAMBERS: Would you repeat that question? I was so wrapped up in what you were saying.

BLOOD: LB15 Nebraska Children's Hearing Aid Act is a Speaker priority bill that I worked very hard on and my question is, am I going to be like Francis Burt and die on the trail or am I going to get to hear my bill today?

CHAMBERS: Being completely frank and honest, Senator, I don't know if you would have gotten to that today even if I weren't doing what I'm doing. But I assure you, that is one of the bill which has the Blood over it and I will pass over it. I can't say what other people will or will not do, but that bill I have no designs on in terms of delaying it in any way.

BLOOD: I appreciate that, Senator Chambers. And I respect what you are sharing on the mike and I know that for those who choose to stay on the floor, there is much to be learned and I think it's to their detriment they don't stay on the floor and listen. But I do appreciate your candor and I would ask that you don't allow me to die on the trail. Thank you, Senator Chambers.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Blood and Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Blood. Members of the Legislature, if I didn't make it clear, I will. I'm not going to do this on every bill. That makes you predictable. No variety when there's predictability. And for people who are not lucky in romance-- by the way, somebody gave me some disturbing information the other day and I'm not going to go into it all now, but there is a group of young white guys who think they've been left

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out of things and they have a right to sex and they will take it and they'll take life, if necessary. White guys. I can't blame them. They're doing what the leaders of this country taught them. George Washington thought he was entitled to sex with black women and black girls. So these young white guys may have studied that history of George Washington and decided that's the part of it that they like. Thomas Jefferson, same thing. Patrick Henry. You know as I expatiate free or all the scene of man, a mighty maze but not without a plan. That I stole from Alexander Pope. Johnson, who was President, after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, was a slaveholder. He favored slavery. Somebody should question whether or not he actually was a slaveholder. I try to drop hints. Lyndon B. Johnson would never deny that he had been a racist. But something is attributed to him and I had even read it in a newspaper article. Lyndon B. Johnson supposedly said with reference to the "n" word, if he could banish that word from the English language, that would be the greatest achievement, not just of his presidency, but of his life. I never thought words like that would come out of Lyndon B. Johnson's mouth. When he stood up before the cameras and was establishing a commission to study the causes of the disturbances that were going on, he said after making all of what he thought were the proper comments, and we shall overcome. And I thought that I should have picked up one of my weights and thrown it through my television set, but that wouldn't hurt Lyndon B. Johnson. But in my opinion, when it comes to concrete results, Lyndon Baines Johnson, the racist from Texas, did more that was concrete than the dreamer, John F. Kennedy. And John F. Kennedy had some traits in common with George Washington and the rest of them. He had a thing for Marilyn Monroe. And she sang a song to him. Happy birthday, Mr. President, and she looked right at him. And there were a lot of people around. John F. Kennedy used to have nude swimming parties at the White House. Frank Sinatra used to provide him with bed mates or playmates.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: These people are held up to be so much and so much, but as somebody said, a hero ain't nothing but a sandwich and a man ain't nothing but a man. And it's why there are things men will not say to each other 'cause men see through men. But they'll say these things to women, and others who may be naive about what men are about. There are some bills on this agenda which if the Speaker would accept my designations, they could escape as far as any concern I'd have about them, but I wouldn't ask him to do that and he should not do it. We just have to let the chips fall where they may.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you.

FOLEY: You may proceed on your third opportunity. You may continue.

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CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you. Senator Blood and I have discussions off the camera and off the mike, which will be between her and me. I was mentioning to her a movie called Trading Places, but before I did that, I asked her who was Billy Ray Valentine and she didn't know who that was. But that was Eddie Murphy's name as a character in Trading Places. And these two white guys had a bet. One of them bet that black people are just inferior, period. The other one trying to get a Nobel said that it was a matter of environment. He said, I could take somebody from the ghetto, put him in the right environment, and he would be better than-- there was this guy, a white guy, that was working for them. So they decided to do this. And Eddie Murphy had gotten in some trouble and these guys bailed him out and he's in the car with them and they're giving him cigars and telling him they're going to give him a place to stay. And to make a long story short, they taught him the rudiments of playing the stock market, dressed him up in white people's clothes, let him have a butler whom Eddie Murphy referred to as, oh, this is my personal slave, huh? Knowing that when a human being is put at the complete disposal of another one, that person is a slave. So there are little nuances in some of these movies that white people won't pick up because they haven't had the experience and their education does not equip them to see these things or pick them up. And sure enough, Eddie Murphy caught on to this racket that they call the stock market and trading. And he and this guy named Winthorpe worked out a scheme whereby they would achieve something they wanted to achieve and put these two white guys in the poor house at the same time. Winthorpe wanted to punish them because of something they did to him and Eddie Murphy explained that the thing that hurts a rich white man more than anything else is to make him a poor white man. See, we understand white people better than they understand themselves because we're around them. We are the invisible people. When we are cooks, when we are chauffeurs, when we are shoe shiners, we don't exist and they talk to each other as though we're not there. And we learn a lot about what they do, what they are, and how to get in the rackets ourselves if that's the direction we want to go. Anyway, the one who thought that environment was the key was going to explain to Eddie Murphy, in rudimentary terms, how being a stockbroker works. He said, now, you have orange juice here. Now you know what orange juice is? You drink that in the morning with your breakfast. Eddie Murphy said, yeah, I understand that. He said and over here you have coffee and some people drink coffee with their breakfast. He said, I understand that too.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: So he said, here's what happens. People come to us for advice. Should they sell the stock in orange juice or should they buy more stock in orange juice? And Eddie Murphy said, okay. And then the guy said, and here is the good part. It doesn't matter whether the value of the orange juice goes up or goes down, we get our 10 percent. And Eddie Murphy said, oh, you guys are like a couple of bookies, huh? So the same principles operate in the underworld as operate in the overworld. But it takes somebody from the underworld to explain to those in the overworld just how these two things are exactly the same under different names. Thank you, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion at the desk.

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Senator Gragert would move to invoke closure pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10.

FOLEY: It's the ruling of the Chair that there has been a full and fair debate afforded to LB243. Senator Gragert, for what purpose do you rise? There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 1 nay to place the house under call.

FOLEY: The house is under call. All senators please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. Senator Howard, can you check in. Senator Groene, Senator Vargas, check in, please. Waiting for Senator Hughes and Senator Erdman. Please return to the Chamber and check in. All unexcused members are now present. Members, the first vote is a vote to invoke cloture. Senator Gragert has requested a roll call vote on the vote to invoke cloture. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 46 ayes, 1 nay to invoke cloture, Mr. President.

FOLEY: The motion to invoke cloture is successful. Our next vote is the vote on Senator Chambers' motion to reconsider the vote to recommit the bill to committee. A roll call vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 1 aye, 46 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to reconsider.

FOLEY: Reconsideration motion is not successful. And finally our next vote is to advance LB243 to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Roll call vote has been requested, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 46 ayes, 1 nay on the advancement.

FOLEY: LB243 advances. I raise the call. Proceeding on the agenda, Select File. Next bill is LB449. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I might, just a couple of items.

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FOLEY: Sure. Items.

CLERK: Thank you very much. Enrollment and Review reports LB34 and LB619 as correctly engrossed. And the Education Committee reports LB547 placed on General File with amendments attached. Select File, Senator Slama, LB449. I have E&R amendments, first of all, Senator.

FOLEY: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: There is E&R amendments or none?

CLERK: Yes.

SLAMA: Yes, okay. Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB449 be adopted.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to adopt the E&R amendments. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The E&R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill at this time.

FOLEY: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB449 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to advance the bill to E&R for engrossing. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. LB449 advances. Proceeding to LB590. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator, I have E&R amendments to LB590.

FOLEY: Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB590 be adopted.

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to adopt the E&R amendments. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. E&R amendments are adopted. Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend with AM1146.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on AM1146.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, what this amendment does is to strike all provisions that currently are in LB590. And then it substitutes the language that I'm interested in. And before going into that specifically by reading it, I will tell you what it does. It is the language that would have been in Senator Hunt's bill had a vote been arrived at. In other words, the form that Senator Hunt's bill was in before that compromised amendment occurred is what this motion would do. It would strike everything from the bill. The active language is on page 1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and insert the following new sections. I explained yesterday that this has been done numerous times. The Lieutenant Governor may have been in the Chair when it was done. I had a bill that would do away with mountain lion hunting. On Final Reading we arrived and I had a motion like this that I offered to various bills. It was not a violation of the germaneness rule because it did not amend anything that was the text of that bill. The only thing that would be left is the number of the bill. This that I'm offering would then be the text of the bill. I'm doing this because of the way that bill that Senator Hunt had presented was mishandled. She was trying to reach out to people who claimed to have some concerns about the way that bill was drafted. So some people whom she believed were acting in good faith had worked on an amendment, an amendment which in my opinion somewhat weakened the original form of her bill. I had even said that if you have the votes to move the bill, then there is no need to go through this amendatory process. And if memory serves me correctly, and I'm paraphrasing, she had indicated that the amendment would take away some of the opposition people had and maybe bring some votes, or words to that effect, and she can speak for herself, but I'm going by what I recollect as we were proceeding. So the amendment was offered. I believe it must have been accepted, because we were then debating the bill. There was a move afoot to make sure that the bill could not move. The time would run out. I thought, based on what Senator Hunt had represented, that there would be enough votes to invoke cloture. And if the people who had said they would vote for the bill stuck by their word, there would have been enough votes. It turned out that there were not. And four of the people who sat on their hands had either participated in concocting the compromise amendment, as it was called, and supporting it, to add it to the bill, or had voted the bill out of the committee where it had been sent, which was HHS. It left the HHS Committee unanimously, without the amendment. Nobody could have anticipated that those who supported the bill in its unamended form would turn against it when it was amended in a way that made it less objectionable, based on the representations being made. The Governor is the one I was referring to in a rhyme that I wrote, the joker that had been slipped into the deck. The decision was not made on this floor by the senators based on the principles they had articulated, but rather caving in to the pressure exerted by the Governor's flunkies outside of and inside of this Chamber, mainly by the Governor. The reporters were well-aware of the caving in to the Governor and wrote about it. When I read a

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comment by one of the persons who was instrumental in helping to forge that so-called compromise amendment that she was frustrated with the process, well she was a part of the process. She was one who helped fashion the amendment. She was the one who voted for the amendment. Well, did it frustrate her because she had acted without getting the Governor's prior approval? We won't know because the reporter who was fortunate enough, if you want to call it that, to get an interview with Senator Geist, refused to comment any further. All she said was she was frustrated by the process. I don't know that she specified what part of it frustrated her, and the reporter simply didn't report it, or something else. But she can speak for herself if she chooses to do so. When I watched all of that unfold, I made a determination in my mind of what I was going to do. This that I'm doing is a part of it. I had said yesterday that I believe in second chances. This effort gives a second chance to those people who had indicated they would support the bill, and then for whatever reason, whatever the motivation, backed out of what they promised to do. So I had this amendment drafted, and the way that you replace one bill with another is to use this formulation that we find here. When the same thing was ruled out of order by Senator Williams, who hasn't had much experience in the Chair, he may not have seen the numerous times that I had done this and that others had done it and it was not ruled to be a violation of the germaneness rule. He was able to have his ruling, which was erroneous, upheld by a majority of those voting here. That ruling is not a precedent. Any ruling that is made by whoever is in the Chair can be either overturned or supported. That is why I use the process that I did. How much time do I have, Mr. President?

FOLEY: One minute, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Oh, well, I'll stop at this point 'cause there is not that much more that I need to say at this point, so thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to object to Senator Chambers' motion to amend. I submit that the motion is out of order.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese. Before ruling on that, I'll ask you to take a couple of minutes to explain your objection and then I'll turn to Senator Chambers and give him a couple of minutes to explain why he believes the amendment is germane. Senator Briese, you're recognized.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. Rule 7, 3(d) requires any amendment to be germane. His amendment is not germane to LB590 as amended. LB590 as amended deals with updating and streamlining a method for verification of the training and credentials of our childcare providers.

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Senator Chambers' amendment deals with SNAP eligibility. Rules or statutes should be interpreted as per their plain-- as per the ordinary use of the language in their plain, ordinary meaning. And Rule 7 tells us that no subject different from that under consideration shall be admitted under color of amendment and that language cannot be more clear. That tells me that we can't put SNAP language, we can't replace language dealing with early childcare with SNAP language. Nothing could be clearer in my opinion. Senator Chambers' interpretation of this rule and his desired use of this rule would essentially gut Rule 7 3(d). And I would submit again that the amendment is out of order. It's not germane. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Chambers, if you would like a few minutes to explain why you believe your amendment is germane you may do so.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. And, Mr. President, since I had touched on it already, it won't take me that long. Our rules are interpreted. Our rules are applied. And what I am doing has been done frequently. And there are people-- I don't know if the current person was there when it was done, but I've given examples of when I, myself, have done it. The challenge would be made and the fact that there was no attempt to amend the language of that bill, but to remove all of it and substitute, it was allowed again and again and again. And by my offering it, I'm simply acting in accord with the way this particular tactic has not only been developed, but used. And it has not been ruled to violate the germaneness rule until yesterday. So I do not think it is in violation of the germaneness rule. It will follow a practice that has been used repeatedly by the Legislature. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. It's the ruling of the Chair that the amendment is not germane. Is there further discussion on the bill? Senator Chambers, for what purpose do you rise?

CHAMBERS: I move to overrule the Chair.

FOLEY: There has been a motion to overrule the Chair. Pursuant to the rules, every member may speak once to the issue. Members may not yield time to another member. Senator Chambers, you may speak to your motion and then you can speak last when the other members have spoken. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm doing this to take time. Now, maybe Senator Briese has the votes that he needs as Senator Williams gave the vote to Senator Gragert yesterday. But he's going to have to use it and I will have a chance to deal with this bill again on Final Reading. But the fact that you might rule against me on this, you haven't really hurt me at all. My motion would have been voted down when we took a vote on it. But I

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can take more time now offering amendments and I will take up all of the time that's allowed on Select File and I shall take up all the time that's allowed on Final Reading; not only on this bill, but on other bills. That is one of those promises, and the promise being made must be kept. This is one of the reasons there ought to be some consistency by not having people in the Chair who don't know the way the Legislature has conducted its business. Now, maybe Senator Foley is unaware of the times that I've done it. But Senator Foley and I have had our disputes. I've been very critical of the way he has abused his power sitting in that Chair, and it continues today. Senator Williams didn't know. Senator Foley knows better. Lieutenant Governor Foley knows better. But this is the session, and I'm addressing things to Senator Foley, Lieutenant Governor Foley; who, by the way, is not term limited out as Lieutenant Governor. And he loves that job, so he can run for it again. He can be Lieutenant Governor again. And I guess he's polishing up his credentials as he has done on certain other issues when he did not rule correctly, or when he cleared out the queue, as they call it, so that people who wanted to fill it up could do so. And I'm going to bring an article to show how he did that, 'cause this sounds so preposterous, you would be justified in thinking I'm making it up out of whole cloth on the spur of the moment. But if Senator Briese were here, I'd ask him would he want to make a wager, and the wager would be is if he thought that I felt things would go any differently from the way he and his kind have been doing things this part of the session? But he won't make that bet, because he knows that I've got motions and amendments already drafted. And in order not to waste my time thinking, I'm just going to start offering motions. First one I'm going to offer, this is such a bad bill, they need to take this thing back to committee so it can be reconsidered. They need to have some thought given to it so that it won't come out here in the first place. If that committee had done its job, we wouldn't be going through all this right now. Senator Briese wouldn't be having heartburn. The other senators wouldn't be feeling disgust. And I wouldn't be having so much fun. And Lieutenant Governor would not have opened the door for me to bring some matters before the body which need to be brought before us because he has come back-- now I don't know what he was doing that kept him from being over here, and his rulings are not always objective. They're objectionable. And anybody who injects himself into the legislative process--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --I'm going to deal with. When the Catholic Church was giving orders, I took on the Catholic Church on the floor and said I'll treat them like any other lobbying operation, hurt their poor, soiled feelings. But that is my opening. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Briese.

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BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a quick comment, Senator Chambers' amendment and this bill's amended two subjects completely unrelated; allowing this would violate the plain language of our rule. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your motion to overrule the Chair.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, when the issue of school segregation was before the court, there was an appellate judge down South who said: those who control the money are going to spend it to benefit their children, and the other children will be shut out. And that's how he described segregation in the public schools. And that's the way I describe what happens here on this floor. When all of you all are clumped together, you're going to take care of each other. That's what I expect. If there were grasshoppers and lightning bugs, I expect the grasshoppers to hop in the same fashion. If there are cockroaches and bed bugs, I expect the cockroaches to clump together and do what roaches do. If there are dragonflies and houseflies, I expect the dragonflies to do what they do. And if there are horse flies, then horse flies will clump together with horse flies. So Senator Briese has given me some additional ammunition and I would bet him that this bill is going to stay here for however much time is allowed at this stage of consideration. And since it's on Select File, I believe that's three hours. The wager I would make with him is that I can take the three hours. Now, if he bets his hopes and his prayers, which will not be answered, he'd take that bet. But if he deals with reality, he knows he'd be foolish to take it. He'd be betting against the house and the house never loses, unless it's a casino run by Donald Trump, a couple of them, which did not win and had to go out of business. But I'm not Donald Trump. I couldn't even use the language of Donald Trump. He's the President and you expect him to use foul, vulgar, obscene language that some people describe as cursing. I know what the vote is going to be, and nobody, I'm going to say again, needs to vote the way I am seeking votes to go on any of my motions. You don't have to be not voting. Vote. Vote with the mob. If the ones who are in charge are wearing pillowcases over their head and bed sheets around their bodies and carrying the American flag in one hand and torches in the other, you better put a pillowcase on your head and a sheet around your body and get you a flag and a torch also. And that's what we're seeing here today. But I'm just going to have to fight against the pillowcase wearers, the bed sheet wearers, the torch carriers, and the flag wavers and we'll just have tons and tons of fun. And you can say, like the Beach Boys: and he had fun, fun, fun, fun, fun, 'cause they couldn't take the rule book away. So if you live by the rules, you die by the rules. At this point, I will not die, I will be temporarily slowed up. And his bill won't die on Select File, we'll just spend three hours on it, then he can invoke cloture. Oh, to be white.

FOLEY: One minute.

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CHAMBERS: But I wouldn't want to be, because I want to be a man and I want to determine my course of action and that's what I shall do. And I shall teach all of you what it means to be a man and how to comport yourself as a man. And for some of these young whipper snappers, when children find themselves in the adult world, they should learn something about being an adult before they go flouncing and bouncing and forgetting that they're around adults and not in high school. Now, that's my message for today. Mr. President, I'll ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is shall the house go under call. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 2 nays to place the house under call.

FOLEY: The house is under call. All senators please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. All senators please return to the Chamber and check in, the house is under call. All unexcused members please return. Senator Geist, check in, please. Speaker Scheer, if you could return to the Chamber please and check in. Senator Bolz, could you check in. All unexcused members are now present. The question for the body is whether or not to overrule the Chair. A roll call vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 1 aye, 40 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to overrule the Chair.

FOLEY: Motion is not successful. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to recommit LB590.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, before I do that, you all voted against what has been done in this Legislature numerous times. Senator Lathrop has been here when it was done; others of you have been here when this method was used. You know it. This was a racist act. I'm shocked that Senator Wayne went along with it. But I shouldn't be. If this had not been done so many times before, then I'd say: comme ci, comme ca I have done it numerous times; kept us here late. But maybe this is to indicate that you don't want anybody to do it. So now the rules of the game have been reinforced. You won the bet. You won that round. But the game is not over and the fight is not over. And I think to give you an idea of how I'm going to take some of my

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time is to read from an article I wrote February 5, 2009. Will criminal Roman Catholic hierarchy have to face the music? I wrote this 10 years ago. Friday morning's Omaha World-Herald had a five-inch item about a federal grand jury investigation into the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles regarding the shuffling of known pedophile priest predators from diocese to diocese by Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, or Mahony, M-a-h-o-n-y. The afternoon edition omitted the item, and the largest settlement with more than 500 victims of predatory priests, \$660 million was forked over in 2007. This column of mine was written in 2009. Obviously it talks about things that happened before that. We'll have to see how far this thing goes and whether the Catholic Church has enough political juice to escape again. In 2002, I wrote several scathing columns about priestly pedophilia and the covers-ups engendered by the Catholic hierarchy. Following are excerpts from March 7, 2002. Now even the Attorney General in Nebraska is on board. When I was writing these things and talking about them on the floor, Senator Foley, at one point, said that what I said was vile. We have a history. He's a Catholic. I'm not. Hypocritical Catholic hierarchy is the heading for this bit. Quote, the hills; this is what I had written in 2002; The hills are alive with the sound of music and the USA is alive with the sound of wholesale sexual abuse of children by Roman Catholic priests and the complicity of the church hierarchy in shielding and covering up for the despicable predators, as well as shuffling them from one diocese to another and shelling out hundreds of millions of bucks in dirty hush money to bribe victims and their families into not going public and creating an explosive scandal. As a result, the church and the USA is plagued with a pandemic infestation of pathogenic pedophiles in priestly vestments and roman collars. Priestly sins in church closets are being shouted from the housetops. I'm convinced that the only proper course to pursue is meticulous, rigorous prosecution followed by lock-up time in the event of a conviction. Priestly perpetrators are trained, highly educated, and totally lacking in excuse or justification. Bitterness swirls in the anguished hearts and tormented minds of parents whose children have fallen prey to systematic sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests. Men rotten to the core whose horrible depredations are known to the church hierarchy, yet are passed around from unsuspecting diocese to unsuspected diocese by a hierarchy, more interested in keeping a lid on scandal than in protecting the young, trusting people under their charge. God is remarkably quiet in all this holy madness. An issue that must be addressed forthrightly is the long entrenched, deep seeded, ongoing, church-condoned, protected, ratified sexual abuse of prepubescent and adolescent boys by cunning, calculating, treacherous, sneaky, wolfish, exceedingly wicked hypocrites who may be branded sexual fiends of the lowest order. The victims of a single predator priest may number in the hundreds. No term is sufficiently descriptive or condemnatory to plum the filed deaths of the despicable vileness and depravity of men who use the roman collar, confessional, mass; bell, book, and candle as props for their XXX-rated sexual plundering of innocent, helpless, vulnerable, trusting, submissive young boys and adolescents. Matters are made worse because the duped, deluded parents willingly deliver the young victims to the yellow-taloned clutches of the vicious religious birds of prey and the ghastly evil aviary where they roost is managed and maintained by a Catholic hierarchy possessing guilty knowledge of what is happening and giving consent and approval through

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unstinting efforts to shield the perpetrators, excuse their unspeakable deeds, then try like Pilate to wash their rancid blood from their stained hands with the contaminated water of alibis, only after public exposure. Is the church itself evil? High-level complicity in evilness renders the church itself evil. The church itself is evil because all levels of the hierarchy, including the Cardinals, so-called princes of the church, and Popes, know and have known, conceal and have concealed, dissemble and have dissembled, and have been complicit in official cover-ups which have involved the reprehensible attempt to shift blame on to the victims. Victims unjustified guilt feelings engender silence. A January 1, 2002, Associated Press story reported, quote, the Vatican has come up with new guidelines for the Roman Catholic Church to handle pedophilia accusations against priests, ordering church officials worldwide to inform it swiftly of such cases and declaring them subject to secrecy. Informing the Vatican swiftly of such cases and declaring them subject to secrecy. Quote, pedophile cases are subject to pontifical secrecy. Only priests should handle such cases, including those serving as judges, prosecutor, or defense advocate in church tribunals. Departing: talk about stacking the deck. And what's coming out now that what I said was just like I said it, despite the taking offense toward it by people such as then-Senator Foley.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: All was contained in the letter by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, close aid of the Pope. Naturally, the guidelines, quote, do not apply to government inquiries or prosecutions, unquote, but with secrecy being the Vatican policy, how will the government know of priestly sexual abuse if victims are reluctant to come forward, but church officials have knowledge? Darned clever these wily Catholic leaders. I know my time is up this time. But I'm going to continue, and I'll turn on my light.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing discussion on the motion, Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. In going back to the germaneness ruling, relative to that ruling, the language of Rule 7, 3(d), in my opinion, could not be more clear. The Chair's interpretation of that rule is correct and it was simply an interpretation of the plain language of the rule; nothing more, nothing less. Senator Chambers, would you yield to a question?

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, would you yield, please?

CHAMBERS: Despite all, yes.

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BRIESE: Is it your opinion that with a combination of motions and amendments, any one individual in this body can filibuster every bill at every stage of debate?

CHAMBERS: Oh, yes; or engage in extended discussion.

BRIESE: Without the ability to defeat those bills?

CHAMBERS: You mean have the extended discussion which will not defeat the bill?

BRIESE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: You won't know that until you reach the moment of truth.

BRIESE: But if it's possible to do that without the ability to defeat those bills, isn't it?

CHAMBERS: Yes, it's possible to do it.

BRIESE: OK, thank you, Senator. And, Senator, is it your opinion that a determined senator acting alone could disrupt or slow-walk an entire legislative session by taking every bill to the six, three, one and a half hours?

CHAMBERS: My nickname is "determined." So, you're correct.

BRIESE: OK. Thank you. And it's your opinion that you could do that, correct?

CHAMBERS: Not an opinion, I know it as a fact.

BRIESE: OK. Thank you, Senator. Do you recall visiting with me back in January both in private and on the mike on the floor?

CHAMBERS: I certainly do.

BRIESE: About a proposed rule change.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

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BRIESE: That would have required any debatable motion or amendment to be demanded by at least five senators before it would be discussed on the floor?

CHAMBERS: Yes.

BRIESE: Would such a rule prevent any one senator from taking every bill the distance?

CHAMBERS: It could probably do that, but it couldn't shut him up because he would challenge every time that idea was attempted to be used.

BRIESE: OK. And if I remember correctly, you vigorously opposed that rule change, correct?

CHAMBERS: Vigorously is an understatement.

BRIESE: OK. I think that's true. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese and Senator Chambers. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today to continue the conversation about systemic racism in Nebraska. Senator Hunt's bill and Senator Chambers' amendment to Senator Briese's bill for providing SNAP benefits for convicted drug felons is another example of systemic racism in our state and in our country. I have statistics from the Sentencing Project, which was a national organization and formed by our local Nebraska ACLU and League of Women Voters, and Nebraska Appleseed. In these statistics, it says that the ratio of black-to-white people who are incarcerated in Nebraska is 8.4. The white imprisonment rate per 100,000 individuals in Nebraska is 201. The black imprisonment rate per 100,000 in Nebraska is 1,680. They also talk about disenfranchisement in their numbers. And both Senator Wayne and myself had bills this year to reinstate voting rights for those who have been convicted of felonies; Senator Wayne's bill, LB83, and my bill, LB711. The disenfranchisement population in Nebraska that is African-American is 3,540 people. That is 20 percent-- I'm sorry, the African-American population in Nebraska is 20 percent of the population. Yet, they make up 20 percent of the disenfranchised population, yet they are 4.7 percent of the actual population in Nebraska. So, systemic racism is clearly a problem in our judicial process and something that I hope we will continue to address. I believe that this amendment is a good piece of legislation, a good piece of public policy. I don't agree with gutting Senator Briese's bill, because I also think that's a good piece of public policy. But I appreciate that Senator Chambers is continuing this conversation forward. And I yield the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Chambers, 2:30.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Members of the Legislature, Senator Cavanaugh has more than one uncle. I'd like to ask Senator Cavanaugh a question if she would yield.

FOLEY: Senator Cavanaugh, would you yield, please?

CAVANAUGH: Yes, I would.

CHAMBERS: Senator Cavanaugh, do you have more than one uncle?

CAVANAUGH: I do have lots of uncles.

CHAMBERS: Do you have one whose name is Seamus?

CAVANAUGH: Well, that would be his name Gaelic name, yes.

CHAMBERS: Now, are you aware that he's been opposed to the building of what we call a junior prison in downtown Omaha?

CAVANAUGH: I'm very well aware, yes.

CHAMBERS: And are you aware that he and I agree that they could reduce remodeling of that facility at 42nd and Woolworth where they have grounds, it's more like a campus, and it doesn't create the image of a junior prison or jail? Are you aware of that?

CAVANAUGH: I have heard about this.

CHAMBERS: And have you been aware of the fact that Douglas County without a vote is going to try to get a bond issue going of about \$120 million to build the junior prison downtown?

CAVANAUGH: I have also heard about that.

CHAMBERS: And in view of the comments you made about the over-representation of black people or African-Americans in the prison system, are you aware that the chairperson of the

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Douglas County Board is a black man and he's pushing 100 miles an hour for this junior jail downtown? Are you aware of that?

CAVANAUGH: I am. Yes.

CHAMBERS: Such an informed person.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Senator, are you aware that some people have suggested that this project is mainly to benefit the builders, the architects and others who will make money from it, rather than the youngsters who will be locked up in it?

CAVANAUGH: I have heard that that is a feeling that exists, yes.

CHAMBERS: And is it logical when they conclude that the number of beds will be far fewer than those currently available at 42nd and Woolworth, that when that place becomes overcrowded, they're going to have to shoe-- shift that overage to someplace else?

CAVANAUGH: I suppose. I would hope that if there's fewer beds, that means that we're doing more to not allow ourselves to reach capacity because we should not be imprisoning children. That's my view.

CHAMBERS: She's right. (Singing) I call her a dreamer and maybe she is. We hope the same thing. That's all I'll ask you. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

FOLEY: That's time, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: You may continue now on your own time, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: I wish that the building of that facility signal a change of philosophy and attitude. But with the chairperson of the Douglas County Board being an African-American, the makeup

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of the ones locked up as youngsters, over 80 percent are black, over 80 percent. And this traitor with the Douglas County Board is doing the dirty work for the white builders. Now, I don't know what they have given him. I don't know what they have offered him. Creighton had given him a job for a while, because he had played basketball for them. He had gone to UNO and they have tried to give him a job over a Malcolm X program, which was the greatest travesty and the greatest insult that could be paid to Malcolm X. For some reason he didn't last there. If I hadn't gotten district elections for the Douglas County Board, he could not have gotten elected to that board. When there were things that I thought ought to be done by the Legislature, I came down here on occasion and spoke on bills; namely, to elect the city council by districts and the school board by districts. I had to get in the Legislature to change that. Maybe I'm going to have to change the three things that I said I would never do. They were: I'll never pick cotton; I'll never wear short britches; and I'll never run for a local office. I'm beginning to have second thoughts because of the damage being done to our community by that person whose name is Chris Rodgers. People do things, people have names, his name is Chris Rodgers. He should not call himself a representative of our community. I would like to ask Senator Moser a question because he might can help me on this.

SCHEER: Senator Moser, would you please yield?

MOSER: [Microphone noise.] Sorry about that. Yes.

CHAMBERS: Senator Moser, when a bond issue is let, how are those bonds paid off, if you know?

MOSER: Usually the form of revenue that pays the bonds off has to be specified.

CHAMBERS: And how would the funds be raised, generally, to retire those bonds?

MOSER: Well, they could be a user fee, like water fees, sewer fees.

CHAMBERS: But if it's none of those?

MOSER: Could be a sales tax, could be a property tax.

CHAMBERS: And it's not going to be a sales tax. So what would be left?

MOSER: Property tax.

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CHAMBERS: So you wouldn't be shocked if \$100 million bond issue would result in a property tax increase? That wouldn't surprise you?

MOSER: Well, if you had to pay off a bond, you'd have an increase in tax, more than likely; unless you have some other payments that are dropping out of that tax that you could use that money then for this other purpose.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Moser. We agree on something, except I'm more direct and definite. This that is being done is going to raise the property taxes on people in the county. It's going to raise property tax. It's going to result in overcrowding as soon as it's completed. There's already been talk of shipping these other kids to other counties and even other states. There's a place in Clarinda where children were shipped. And there was a story about it on national news how the children are sexually abused, they are kept in restraints, and they are restrained in a way that had led in one case to a fractured shoulder.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: They get strains and sprains from the way they're mistreated. And when they are sent to these places, the sending state has nobody go there to check on how these children are being abused. The license was granted by the state of Clarinda-- I meant, of Iowa. But then after this national exposure, they reconsidered and said they are not sure that the company running it is going to have their license renewed. That's what's in store for these poor black children who will be there out of all proportion to their numbers. So that ties into what Senator Cavanaugh had mentioned. It ties into how the SNAP program can benefit people who have been released from prison and need a little breathing space before they can get a job.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Moser and Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Government Committee will hold an Executive Session under the south balcony at 11:30.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returning to floor discussion, Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, we may as well discuss some of these very pressing and serious issues. I heard on the news when I was coming down here of a report put together by the ACLU. And based on reviewing records that have to be turned in to, I guess, the crime commission, black people are stopped by the police out of all proportion to our numbers in the population. They are ticketed more than white people similarly stopped. And you all wonder why I'm critical of these white police. You wonder why I say they are our ISIS. These are things that need to be discussed on this floor. Other things can help. I had watched what happened every time an attempt was made to carve out a program that would help north Omaha, and none of them worked. So when they had this so-called throwback plan where if a hotel or any revenue-generating operation was built: a coliseum, sports complex, any money that would go to the state, based on sales tax or whatever, would be thrown back to that entity. I guess to help pay for it. What I finally decided to do, because I had always stopped it, is to say, Senator Ashford, if we can make a deal that a percentage of this money will go to north Omaha and we will use the necessary language about the census track, the level of poverty and so forth, that would make it apply to north Omaha without naming it, which would make it special legislation, Senator Ashford explained that the only way they would get that bill through was if they acceded to my wish. And that's what they did. But there's another part of Omaha, south Omaha, which was similarly excluded. And I wanted to make sure that south Omaha was included. I was looking through some papers I've got and there's a newspaper called Nuestra-- I forget the rest of it, that's all I remember, because that means "our". And it was written in Spanish and English how the Latino community thanks me. Whenever the police shot or brutalized a Latino, a man with whom I work called me and we would have a joint press conference, because, to me, people who were assaulted and abused by the police should have somebody speaking for them. So I would go there Nuestra Mundo, I think. But anyway, they got some of that money too. You have to specifically target it. So what Senator Wayne is trying to do, that's not the first time it was attempted. But I was successful. But when I was not in the Legislature, the person who was here allowed Senator-- then-Senator Ashford to plunder that money and lay aside something to what he called fight gangs. And nobody stood up for north Omaha. I wasn't here. And that money,--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --not that great an amount in the first place, was reduced. We always get the short end of the stick. And back to what I started talking about in terms of the police stopping us out of all proportion to our numbers and ticketing us and finding violations, they said that the police need more training. No, they don't need more training. They need more discipline. They know how not to do that to white people, so they know how not to do it to us. But they are racist, they get away with it. The various chiefs of police are not going to do anything to correct it. All I can do is speak about it. And I think a mistake is made if a black representative does not talk about all of these issues that affect our community. Thank you, Mr. President. Is this my third time?

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SCHEER: You have your close left, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, this will be your last at the mike and it would be your close.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. We're going to stay on this until we leave for the morning and we'll be on it when we come back this afternoon because I'm not going to let it go. And all of you who voted to uphold the Chair, knowing you were making a racist vote, have told me something. And I'm going to ask the Clerk who handles that part of it to give me a copy of that vote, because I am taking personally what you all are doing now. And you can say it's not personal if you want to, but what you voted against was a practice of this Legislature. That's what you voted against. Maybe these newbies don't know anything, but they followed along behind the mob. And since I have to stand literally alone, that's what I'm going to do. And I'm not going to be bought off. I'm not going to be tricked off. I'm not going to be compromised off. I'm not going to be traded off. The only bill I have promised not to do anything on, and I promised it because I was not going to do anything to harm it, is Senator Blood's bill, LB15, to adopt the Children of Nebraska Hearing Aid Act. The others of these bills, I don't care anything about them. And you all probably don't care either. The state can live without all of them. So that last vote you gave was the real clincher because there was racism involved. And I'm not the only person on this floor who understands racism. And by me saying you don't have to vote with me on anything does not excuse you of a moral obligation and responsibility. So that's the way you wanted to play the game, then that's the way I intend to play it. And I have some transcripts here. One of them will deal with an interrogation I put the second in command from the Omaha FBI through relative to this pedophilia in the Catholic Church. He didn't know which-- where I was going at first because I started talking about a worldwide criminal operation. And, also, how they puff up statistics when the police do certain things, and the FBI. They were talking about this MS13 group and how many of them they had arrested and taken dangerous people off the streets and drugs. But I interrogated that FBI man. And he had to make some admissions on the record. But it didn't make any difference. I talked about the ready availability of guns in north Omaha; the only one who talks about that where it makes any difference. He had to make some admissions. But it hasn't changed. The lack of work by the FBI, the State Patrol, the Omaha police, Homeland Security, federal Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives agency, none of them are concerned because the guns are in the hands of young black men. And I use the term "men" advisedly because some are in their lower teens.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And if these kids know where to get these guns, all of these law enforcement people have to know. And there can be no question that these young black guys are duped, deluded, and misled, and are doing the white racist work for them when they do bad things to each other in our community. That's what I'm concerned about. That's what I have spoken about for years, and I'll continue to do it. We might get some money programs, we might not. I will fall

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on my sword to rescue my community from depredations by the police. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) You heard the close on the motion to recommit to committee. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. There's been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote no. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 13 ayes, 4 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SCHEER: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Arch, would you check in please. Senator DeBoer, would you check in please. Senator Cavanaugh, would you please check in. Senator Lathrop, Senator Wayne, would you please return to the floor. The house is under call. Senators Bolz, Hilkemann, Lathrop, Vargas, Wayne, Wishart, please return to the floor. The house is under call. Senator Wishart, Senator Vargas, Senator McDonnell, please check in. The house is under call. There's been a request for a roll call vote. The question before us is Senator Chambers' motion to recommit to committee. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 1 aye, 44 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to recommit.

SCHEER: The motion fails. Mr. Clerk, for a motion. Raise the call.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open. Senator Briese, you have the option to lay it over or to take it up.

BRIESE: We'll take it up.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is one of those times when if Senator Briese and I had talked about something else like yesterday or a week ago,

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maybe we'd be on a different course today. But Caesar has crossed the Rubicon, the die is cast. So I must proceed in the way that I said that I would. When the Legislature does certain things, it puts a bit of toxicity into the well. And that toxicity does not go away just because we recess for the noon hour or adjourn until the next day. There is nothing that means so much to me that can be done in this Legislature that will cause me to forsake the principles I hold dear. I have a bill to abolish the death penalty. I will not sacrifice any principle for that bill. And it means more to me than any other single piece of legislation that I have dealt with. So don't think I can be bought off like some people can by saying, well, we'll give you this if you promise not to do what you are doing anymore. But we each determine what is of great importance to us. For years I was railing about the ready availability of guns in my community, not just on this floor. I had a column that I wrote weekly for the Omaha Star. I had a weekly program, Public Access, on Cox. But the now-president of the city council, Ben Gray, Mayor Stothert, they had something to do with what programs could be on Cox; and, naturally, Cox, they agreed to take that program off the air. So I used committee hearings. I used debates on the floor of the Legislature, and I'll continue to do that. I wrote letters to the heads of every law enforcement agency at the city level, the state level, and the federal level. Some didn't have the courtesy to even reply because it involves black children. Our community is really being decimated not just by bad houses that landlords won't take care of, but by our children being pushed out of school and locked up. And more than 80 percent of the children locked up right now come from my community. And that's inexcusable and it has to change. But it won't change until people are in a position who care about our children. And the county board is the one that makes those decisions. And that's why, as distasteful as it is to me, I might have to try to get a seat on the county board. Maybe it's fortuitous that there will be term limits. I went to the Learning Community when I was term-limited out of the Legislature. There was so much angst about my not being on it that you know what the Legislature decided to do? Change the beginning date for the Learning Community so there would be no overlap between the time I'm in the Legislature and when the Learning Community would officially begin. You cannot hold two offices at the same time, and I was not going to resign from the Legislature. So the day after the Legislature adjourned, the Learning Community began. And I had run for the office, but, like all these positions, it was more of a leisurely stroll. I didn't raise a penny. I didn't ask anybody for money. And I got more votes than anybody who was running for the Learning Community; more than Senator Kolowski, more than Justin Wayne, more than other people whose names you might know, but I can't call right now. And I did not campaign at all. And people outside of the black community voted because the Learning Community covered a much broader area than is covered by legislative district or a school board district or a city council district. And when I'd be stopped in the store and these white people would say, I voted for you, I didn't tell them, but in my mind I was saying, they are just lying to me, they don't even know that they can't vote for me. What I did not know was that the district for the Learning Community was not following the district for a legislative seat. So there were white people outside of the area who voted, and they voted for me because, despite the fact that they don't like me, I don't blame them; kids hate their parents until they get as old as

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their parents. Then as Mark Twain said, it was amazing how much smarter his father got the older Mark Twain got. Those people knew of my genuine concern about education for all children. The bills that I had stopped in this Legislature, the ones that I supported, and even had managed to divide OPS into three districts. But the reason I had to let that go was because I was being term-limited out. All that the Legislature would do, they had filed a lawsuit, got the NAACP to file it with them to have the bill struck down. I gave my legal argument as to why it shouldn't be, and it did not create segregation. So all of a sudden they didn't want the case to be heard. I wrote a letter, a scathing letter, insisting that a hearing date, a trial date be set. Well, then when they saw the way the drop was going to fall, they would wait until I was out of the Legislature, then all they'd do is get the Legislature to repeal the law. And they would be back where they started from. So working with Senator-- then-Senator Brashear, then-Senator Adams, but mainly Senator-- he was a man that I thought so much of, Senator Raikes. He and I worked to create the Learning Community because both of us were term-limited out. Both of us are-- he was a pragmatist. He died in a farming accident. We changed, we repealed the law that I had gotten that divided the district into three parts and in its place created the Learning Community, which was enacted into law, and it still exists now. And to show how much Senator Raikes meant to me, he did in death what nobody else can get me to do in life. Two things: to go to church and to attend a funeral. I don't believe in going to funerals. I didn't go to my mother's funeral, not my sister's funeral, not my favorite niece's funeral. I don't believe in them. But there was something with reference to Senator Raikes, because he came from a different universe, that made it essential that I show that regard for him. And I was asked to speak, which I was very willing to do.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Had he not died in that untimely fashion, education in Omaha would be different today. And because of the large area covered, the number of students, education in the state would be different. But none of us control when anybody else or we ourselves will leave here unless we decide that we are going to end it ourselves. But what I can try to do is to fight against those very hurtful things that are afflicting my community. One is excessive police mistreatment, the locking up of our children, pushing our young boys and the girls out of school into the junior jail. It has to stop. And I can't stop it from this Legislature. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Per the choice of Senator Briese, he will make his response after the lunch recess. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, priority motion: Senator Quick would move to recess until 1:30 p.m.

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SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion to recess. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. The ayes do have it.

RECESS

FOLEY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: There's a quorum present, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any items for the record?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Nebraska Retirement Systems to whom was referred LB31, reports the same back to the Legislature that it be placed on General File with committee amendments. That's all I have at this time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, when we broke for the lunch break, we were on LB590. Senator Chambers had offered an IPP motion. He opened on his motion and then pursuant to the rules, Senator Briese, you're recognized to respond to that motion if you care to.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. I stand here in opposition to Senator Chambers' motion to indefinitely postpone. LB590 is amended as good legislation. It's about streamlining the verification process of our child care providers. It's about making life easier for small businesses. And again, the committee amendment makes it optional for these providers. But the merits of this bill is not really what this discussion is about. This discussion is about what happened last week in this body. And I submit to you what happened last week was simply a disagreement on policy. Had nothing to do with indifference to Senator Hunt's reasons for bringing LB169. It had every everything to do with policy. It was a good policy. It was a bad policy. Nothing more, nothing less. And that's what we're here for, discuss policy, agree or disagree and move on. That's what we did last week and I think it's time we move on. Discuss the issues that are important to Nebraskans. We owe it Nebraskans to do so. And Nebraskans are watching. They're paying attention to what's going down here and we have to be mindful of that, and we have to ask ourselves, is what we are doing here on the floor moving our state forward, bringing our state together, or does our conduct and our actions have the opposite effect? So I think it's time we move on, not dwell on our past policy decisions of this body and do the people's work. Thank you, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, when I hear people on this floor talk like Senator Briese, I think about that one in whose name you all give prayers every morning. Senator Briese would have told Jesus, can't you tone it down some? Do you have to say the priest? Can't you just say wicked people? Do you have to name the most powerful religious group which are the Pharisees? Come on, J.C., be cool. You want people to like you, don't you? And he'd just look at poor Senator Briese and say, all of these months you have walked with me. You have watched me. You have listened to me and you're gonna tell me to take it easy because people may not like what I'm saying. Senator Briese, Senator Briese. And then he would let you take it from there. But the appeal to me, based on what other people think, is lost. These people watching don't care about me. You think I'm gonna go to their house? They're gonna come to my house? I'm gonna eat dinner with them. They're going to eat dinner with me. They don't even know what we're talk being half the time. But I'd venture to say I get more calls and letters from people than any of you all about how they write to their senator or call that office and nobody will talk to them, but I'm their last hope and I've got the letters to show it. And some of the senators surprise me 'cause the least you could do is talk to somebody if you're in your office. They're shocked when I answer the telephone. I say, whose name is this telephone in? Well, it's in your name. I say whose office is that telephone in? Well, yours. Then why would it surprise you that I answer the telephone in my name, in my office? Well, other senators don't do that. I say, I'm not other senators. I am Ernie Chambers. My name is Ernie and their name is whatever it is. And they'll be moved by every wind of doctrine. Somebody call you and say I don't like what you said and you won't say it anymore. My standard, because of most of the kind of calls I get, is that the louder the vipers hiss, the closer I'm striking to their nest. And they're not going to make me stop hissing, and on this floor when I decide to take a course of action, I'm going to take it. Now, maybe if I was white and everybody else was white, I could sit back and say, well, I'm not going to talk on this 'cause you got 40-some-odd other white people who will do it. You couldn't stand alone and do what I do, especially in a hostile group. None of you could, 'cause you can hardly do it here where you're all alike. You're all the same, cut from the same cloth, like homo milk and that didn't mean homosexual. It meant homogenized and they call it homo. What do you think when you hear homo now? You all need to stop saying homo sapiens and call it hetero sapiens. That's how silly people in this Legislature are. Little boy coming home from school and tell you, daddy, my teacher today told me that I'm a homo sapien, and you go running to that school with your fist balled up, don't you tell my son that he's a homo sapien. My boy is a hetero sapien. And the teacher would go, (cough), excuse me a minute, Senator Lowe. I got a cough. That's how simple you all are around here. And then you want to come up on the q.t. and make friends and say it's just a difference of opinion. This is far more than a difference of opinion. A difference of opinion does not automatically mean a difference--

FOLEY: One minute.

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CHAMBERS: --in philosophy. But when on serious issues you're over there and I'm over here, it's a difference of philosophy and I'm not gonna be quiet 'cause you'll be quiet. If you live the life where everything went your way, it doesn't matter whether you say anything or not 'cause you're going to be taken care of. When you have to fight tooth and nail for everything just to keep teachers from making fun of you in the classroom, you have a different attitude. That's when I wore a much, much younger man's clothes. In fact, I was wearing a little boy's clothes. And that little boy had feelings and that little boy's feelings were hurt. And that little boy had nobody who would speak up for him or stand up for him. That little boy didn't know how to fight adults and he couldn't fight adults and no adult came to his aid. So he knew, he was a child in an adult world where the adults were his enemies. And they demonstrated by the way they talked and the way they acted. So he toughened up.

FOLEY: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: He didn't talk a lot to adults. You said time?

FOLEY: That's time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized. It's your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: I'm going to read some things. All you Catholics, buckle your chinstraps. Put on your seat belt. This discussion took place March 20 in the Legislature, 2002. This is from a column I wrote April 4, 2002. The debate grew out of my amendment to reduce public funds going to private schools. Activities of Roman Catholic priests and hierarchy naturally entered the discussion since Creighton and the College of St. Mary are recipients of public funds. Is the Catholic priesthood in reality a perverted sex cult used to consolidate, hold, and exercise the power and authority of the Catholic Church? Senator Chambers speaks. Excerpts from the transcript. That's why you say things for the record. The church is losing its grip because it is shot through with criminals of the worst kind and the top dogs known as the hierarchy, whom I've condemned in the past, are responsible for making it possible for them to carry on their nefarious child sexual abuse. Cardinal Egan, who is now the Archbishop of New York, admitted that there has been a longstanding practice of the church to cover up for these guys and move them from parish to parish when it was known what they had done. When you have high-placed people in an organization implementing policy, that policy becomes the organization's policy. The evil of the hierarchy becomes the evil of the church. Since the hierarchy is evil, the church is evil. I already told you where Omaha Archbishop Elden Curtiss, removed from a priest file two letters when he was in Montana. He was a bishop there and removed two letters that documented

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the sexual misconduct of a priest. Then he apologized to his congregation when he was found out. Elden Curtiss recently transferred a priest who was immersed in child pornography to St. Gerald in Ralston and St. Joan of Arc in Omaha and he did not tell the people. I'm going to show you what a hypocrite and a liar Elden Curtiss is. Yeah, I use strong words because it's called for. I'm talking about our children. What this man told the parishioners is that the priest called by me, alligator, his name was Allgaier. What this man, Elden Curtiss, told the parishioners is that this priest Allgaier had gone to some counselors and he was not a threat to children, so he transferred him. Why then after the matter became public did he remove him? If Curtiss felt this man was not a threat to children, and he transferred him, Curtiss was wrong a second time to betray and forsake the man after having placed him where Curtiss thought he ought to be placed. The most precious commodity that a society has is its children. I don't care who is abusing children, they have to be put in their place whether a man wears a Roman collar or the robe of a protestant makes no difference to me. But whenever anybody talks about studies or surveys to see where the child sexual abuse occurs in churches, it's always the Catholic Church far and away. I had made a mistake in saying that 4 percent of the priests are engaging that kind of conduct. A Catholic wrote in an article saying it's 6 percent. All is quiet on the western front. It reminds me of the song, a hush fell over the poolroom. This guy came bopping in off the street.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And when the cutting was done, every part was bloody except the sole of the big man's feet. He had been cut in 100 places. He had been shot in a couple more, and you better believe I sang a different kind of story when big Jim hit the floor. See, I knew my time was running out so I like to say something to end that segment and then continue.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You're recognized to close on your IPP motion.

CHAMBERS: And don't despair anybody, I will have plenty of time, plenty of opportunities because I create my opportunities. Continuing. You know what would change my attitude and my opinion? If, when the hierarchy became aware of the wrongful conduct, they had done something to correct it. But when priests have done wrong and you know there is no excuse for not taking corrective action and that's what I condemn the church for. Even the Pope is not doing what he ought to do. You know what he implemented as a new standard? Cardinal Ratzinger sent letters to all of the priests, bishops, archbishops and cardinals who are committing cardinal sins, any allegations of priestly sexual misconduct should be sent to the Vatican without delay and they will be kept confidential and are subject to pontifical secrecy. That's at the highest level. The quote, holy father, unquote, pontifical secrecy shall surround what? Pedophilia and ephebophilia by priests when he should be saying, quote, I more than anybody else want to cleanse the church of this cancer. Oh, then this is the headline. All quiet on the legislative front. It was prophetic.

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After Curtiss had tried to cover for the Omaha priest, Daniel Herek, the hierarchy now has settled two federal lawsuits. Daniel Herek was at a school called St. Richards on the outer edge at that time of the black community. The black people sent their little children to this pedophile, to this monster, to this holy Roman Catholic priest with his backward collar and his robes and his beads and his crucifix, which he called a rosary. Oh, and his face was often rosy because when you deal in what these suckers deal in, it causes you to flush, and when you're white, you turn red, with shame it ought to be. But it's from stimulation of the wrong kind, from the nether regions, stimulation of the nether regions. When these little boys went into the rectory, the priest changed it. It was called the "rectumry, the "rectumry", because they went in to little boy's rectums with their penis and they had these little boys inserting their penis in the priest's rectum and these are the kind of documented cases that came out. And the Catholics didn't want it to come out and that man up there was highly offended when I brought it out on the floor of the Legislature as you'll hear. I'm talking about then, Senator Foley. Captain Marvel would have people who would say holy moly. I say "holy Foley", 'cause he runs back and forth to church every day. Watch them people who go to church. Notice I didn't say watch those people. I'm dropping my language and grammar and syntax to the level of those who are listening. Watch them people or to include more of a watch them there people 'cause they is the kind that does wrong. Continuing. After Curtiss had tried to cover for Omaha priest, Daniel Herek, the hierarchy now have settled those federal lawsuits. And this Legislature-- oh, six state lawsuits are pending because he was arrested and this Legislature is so quiet about that. But if there was this much sexual abuse of children by any group other than the Catholic Church--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --there would be an uproar on the floor of this Legislature. You know what proves it? Senator Pansing Brooks, she's not here now, and others talked about child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, didn't they? Didn't they bring bills to deal with the sex trafficking? But here, quiet, except for me and I was referred to as vile for discussing the vile misconduct of these priests and was referred to as vile by that man sitting up there, "holy Foley". And I'll say like Captain Marvel's character, holy moly. No needing you all hunching over and look like you don't hear me. You hear every word that I'm saying and it bothers you 'cause every word I say is true and this is not the first time you heard it. But you didn't expect to hear it here because you thought I was quiet, amoral or immoral, like the rest of you. You think I owe some kind of loyalty to a rotten priest who is going to hide behind what he says is the holiest thing--

FOLEY: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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FOLEY: Members, you've heard the discussion on the IPP motion. The question for the body is the adoption of the motion.

CHAMBERS: I want a call of the house and a roll call vote.

FOLEY: There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 11 ayes, 7 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

FOLEY: The house is under call. All members please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. All unexcused members please return to the floor. The house is under call. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Wayne and Senator McDonnell, please return to the floor. The house is under call. Waiting for Senator Wayne. All unexcused members are now present. The question for the body is whether or not to indefinitely postpone LB590. Senator Chambers has requested a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 0 ayes, 40 nays, Mr. President.

FOLEY: The motion is not adopted. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the Health and Human Services Committee will have an Executive Session at 2:00 in Room 2022. Mr. President, as it relates to LB590, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the previous vote to indefinitely postpone.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your reconsideration motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I've got about five more motions that I'm going to make and then I'm going to start amending the bill. And I want Senator Briese to know how influenced I am by the Governor who has influenced some of my colleagues. On page 1 of the committee amendment, which I presume was adopted, it says in line 13, beginning January 1, 2020, I think that date ought to be changed from 2020 to 2022. The public voted to extend Medicaid and the Governor decided he's going to show what he thinks of the Legislature and the public, he's not going to do it right away. I think he gave 2022 as when he'd be doing it. So I'm going to have this bill and every other bill that comes that has a date preceding 2022, I'm going to offer an amendment to change that date to whatever is in the bill to the date 2022. Then I'll tell Senator Briese, this is just the difference of opinion. You'll get over it. You ought to get over it. Don't get upset. Forget about what happened this morning. Let's deal

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with what's happening now, but every one of you act on things that happened before the particular day that we're working. You brought up the little laceration you took when you all offered up that amendment saying that you would have to have a certain number of people to agree before any debatable matter could even be debated on the floor. That's way back there in January. You still thinking about that. Then somebody is supposed to forget what happened a few days ago when there was direct treachery? See, it's one thing to have a discussion of an issue and lose because people genuinely were not persuaded. It's another thing to let them vote no because they don't like you. It's another thing for them to vote no because somebody told them to. But the worst thing is when you have worked with that person and made a promise, then you violate that promise because somebody told you to violate it and you don't have the common decency to tell the person, I'm chickening out. You thought I would be there with my life preserver. I can't even throw that to you. You have to sink or swim on your own. I cannot help you at all. I know what I promised, but if you've watched the way I've conducted myself, my promise doesn't mean anything. You were not on your guard. You need to be more alert. You need to pay attention. But at least, Senator Hunt learned. She said, and I'm paraphrasing, you have to figure out which people you can count on and which ones you cannot. She's a nice person. I'd have said you have to find out who is a liar and who is not. Who is untrustworthy and who is not. Who is treacherous and traitorous and who is not. That was treachery. That was traitorousness and I wouldn't compare the ones who did it to Benedict Arnold or Benedictine-na Arnold and certainly not to Mata Hari. Mata Hari got a bad rap. She was from a country other than England, other than France. And this is a woman who was shot. She was executed for having done things she did not do. That's what white man do when they're in control, as they are in this Legislature, and you affect what some women do. Wicked companions corrupt good manners. And that's what happens here, and that's why I have to stand firm and I shall not be moved. So I'm going to deal with my motions. I'm going to do my reading and I called out the Lieutenant Governor this morning, didn't I? By name and title. Didn't I? Yes, I did. And now it's put up or shut up time. Senator Briese understands that because when a wager is made and the event has come to pass, one person wins, the other one loses, but they call and you got to answer. Let me continue. And I'll put on my light because I know you all like to hear this and I don't want to break it up for too long a time. But to show what a nice guy I am, and when I see the mood getting too solemn, I can lighten it. But I'm not going to try to sing it. See how Senator Briese is sitting right now? It fits the song. I plopped down in my easy chair, I turned on Channel 2. A fast gunslinger named Salty Sam was chasing poor Sweet Sue. He trapped her in the old sawmill and said with an evil laugh, if you don't give me the deed to your ranch I'll saw you all in half. And then he grabbed her. He tied her up. He turned on the buzzsaw and then, and then, uh-uh. And then along came Jones, tall, thin Jones, slow walking Jones, slow talking Jones. Along came long, lean, lanky Jones. Commercial came on and so I got up to get myself a snack, and you should have seen what was going on by the time that I got back. Salty Sam was trying to throw Sweet Sue in a burlap sack. He said, if you don't give me the deed to your ranch I'll throw you on the railroad track. So he grabbed her. He tied her up. He threw her on the railroad tracks. The train started

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coming. Uh-uh. And then along came Jones, and repeat the refrain. I got so bugged I turned it off. And turned on another show. But there was the same old shoot 'em up and the same old rodeo. Down in the old abandoned mine Sweet Sue was having fits, that villain said, give me the deed to your ranch or I'll blow you all to bits. And he grabbed her. He tied her up. He lit the fuse to the dynamite and then, and then, uh-uh. And then along came Jones, tall, thin Jones, slow walking Jones, like Senator Lowe there, slow walking Jones, slow talking Jones. Along came long, lean, lanky Jones. And that was the song and it was inspired by my good friend, Senator Briese. Now, I'll continue with the serious business at hand. Senator Jon Bruning speaks. Let me get above that. All quiet on the legislative front. I see them only as men, that's all. From the priest who commits the atrocity all the way to the Pope, the cardinals, archbishops, chancellors, ordinaries, and all the other titles they apply to them, it is wrongful conduct and it's not going to be rooted out until lawyers do to the Catholic Church what was done to the tobacco industry. All the tobacco industry did was kill people. What the church is doing is keeping people alive--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --though they are walking dead people. What kind of effect will it have on a little boy for the rest of his life to have been betrayed and violated by one his parents taught him to love, honor, and obey, virtually worship and submit to in all things? What kind of reaction will that child suffer? Will he remain a child even when chronologically he's a man? There was a priest who was sentenced to about six years in prison for having raped this little boy and then made him go to confession and confess to the priest for having done wrong. How much crueller can you be? Those are the kind of creatures in the Catholic Church known to be in the Catholic Church protected by the hierarchy of the Catholic Church, and then when somebody like me speaks against them, somebody like "holy Foley" says what I say is vile.

FOLEY: Time, Senator Chambers, but you may continue on your second opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I'm turning my light on again. I'm just starting to get rolling now. Rolling, rolling, rolling. Keep those wagons rolling. Rolling, rolling, rolling, rawhide. We need to put a cow hide on the hides of some of these priests and priestly defenders. They can give it, but they can't take it. Senator Jon Bruning speaks, excerpts. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I sat in my office and listened to this debate, I've been stewing about what I saw on the news last night with Archbishop Curtiss, what's been going on within the church. And Senator Chambers, I guess I would say to you, over the six years I've been here, you've given me a lot of advice. Some solicited, some unsolicited, but always in opposition to any type of bigotry you might perceive that's coming out of my mouth or my actions. I would say that to condemn the entire Catholic Church for the actions of a couple of folks is not where you want to be. I'm not about to stand up here and condemn the Catholic Church for the actions of a few. That to me,

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that's the same thing as condemning the black race for the actions of a few. It doesn't make any sense. I'm not about ready to do it. Would he be ready today when the Attorney General and attorneys general all over this country and members of the legal profession all over the world are showing that this was shot throughout the church, the church was more holey than Swiss cheese, from the top through the middle, through the bottom. The Crab Caritas with their little red beanies sitting around. The deacons, the brothers, the bishops, the archbishops, cardinals, all of them. Bruning was young then, he didn't know, but I knew even then. When you have that kind of corruption, it's like you see the tip of the iceberg. If you understand icebergs, you know that nine times as much is underneath there as what you see. You see the tip of it. I saw it and I knew what had to be underneath it to support that kind of wickedness and keep it afloat. But poor Jon Bruning didn't. However, he offended that man sitting up there "holy Foley". Jon Bruning continues. Now, that having been said, let's talk about the actions of a few. I will stand here, Senator Chambers, and agree with you wholeheartedly that Archbishop Curtiss has shown himself unworthy of his position. It strikes me just based on the arrogance of these letters that he's written to this man and woman that he ought not to be where he's at. Add to that the fact of his cover-up of the priest who is looking at child porn and my blood begins to boil. As the parent of little children, if I were aware of a priest or anyone else that was interested in child porn within 100 yards of my kids, I'd be ready to turn them on their head as I'm sure most parents would. I mean, it makes me sick to my stomach. Elden Curtiss needs to go. The Cardinal in Boston needs to go. These people who are covering up pedophilia, who are covering up the priests, who want to look at child porn, they need to go. I'm so angry, I'm angry at Elden Curtiss. I'm angry at the Cardinal in Boston. I'm angry at those individuals, not at the church. Senator Chambers responds. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have to make a clarification based on something Senator Bruning said. How would it be wrong for him to condemn the whole black race, to use his term, for what some did? That would be absolutely wrong.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: But a race of people is different from an organization. When you have child molesting in an organization and those who run the organization set the rules, govern, and control go along with it, ratify it, alibi and cover up, then the organization is condemned. The actions of those who run the organization become the actions of the organization. There is no comparison between me condemning the Catholic Church as a church for what it is known and protected all the way up the line and condemning a race for what some members of that race had done and nobody in that race has control over them. When you can show me that the cardinals doing what they should, the archbishops and the bishops, then maybe I will do differently. How much time do I have, Mr. President?

FOLEY: Time expired on this opportunity but you may continue on your third opportunity.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. And that's perfect. (Singing horse race introduction) Oh, no, that's when the race starts. I don't know the heralding song when the star comes on the stage. Maybe there's a drum roll. (drumming sound) And hit the cymbal and the curtains part, and majestically, chin held high, chest thrust forward, striding on to center stage with that piercing look at the audience. None other than "holy Foley", holy moly. Senator Mike Foley. This is Senator Foley. The rhetoric that we've heard today from Senator Chambers was rather predictable. A number of months ago I took the floor of the Legislature and criticized Senator Chambers and said that his speech was vile, hate-filled and bigoted and I stand by that statement and he's proven that statement to be true today. Again, no great surprise. What I said about Elden Curtiss and those other people was vile, hate-filled and bigoted, said your Lieutenant Governor, "holy Foley". If you get it at the right time, you'll see the trotting over to the church on the corner and trotting back over here. I don't know what he and the priest talk about. Bless me father, for I have sinned. Oh, man, don't come here with that stuff to me. That's what these little boys say to me. We're men. We know what's going on. Continuing with "holy Foley". What's prompted me to take the floor now is the speech of a good friend of mine, Jon Bruning. I have to tell you, Senator Bruning, I'm deeply disappointed today in the speech that you made on the floor of the Legislature that Archbishop Curtiss is not worthy of the office that he holds. I think it's a very irresponsible statement on your part and I'm very disappointed that you would make that statement and I would remind you that you are running now for one of the highest offices in this state, Attorney General. I think you've really failed us today, Jon. and I'm very disappointed. I will leave it there for now. But I'm... I'm going to mull over further Jon Bruning's speech and I think it may cause me to reassess my views of Jon on the foregoing basis. You know what the trouble with Jon is, Jon is against child pornography. Jon is against little children being raped and Senator Foley didn't like that. And he thinks Jon needs to reassess his position. Learn to love child pornography. Learn to embrace pedophilia. Learn to suck up to a rotten to the core archbishop. And then, maybe I'll continue to support you 'cause then you and I think just alike. Senator Bruning responds. What I said about the archbishop, that he should be removed and I did say that he was not worthy of his position, was based upon the fact that the archbishop knew that one of his priests was looking at child pornography. In my mind, somebody that's looking at child pornography is one step away from a pedophile and the step is a small one. I don't distinguish between the archbishop and any other manager. If there is somebody in one of our state agencies that has somebody under their direct employ that's looking at child pornography and they find out about it--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and they don't do anything about it, that person needs to go too. So Senator Foley, I have a deep respect for you and for the Catholic Church. My problem is with the way this particular situation was handled by this particular person. All I can do now is close on this

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motion, so I will wait until my closing because somebody else may want to get into the discussion. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You're recognized to close on your motion to reconsider.

CHAMBERS: What? No additional witnesses? If it please the court, Senator Chambers responds. That ignorant man called Foley, if he calls me vile, I can call him ignorant and anything else I want to. He is the one who is vile because he supports child molesters and those who protect them. He thinks because he is a flunky for the church that he can come here and do the name calling. He said he stands by his comments that I'm vile, bigoted, and hate-filled because I'm attacking child molestation. Well, well when somebody strikes close to your home, I guess you do get upset. Now, I don't know what Senator Foley's predilections are, but when he defends those wrongdoing priests and thinks that nobody has the right to talk about it, then he's in the wrong business if he thinks his effeminate little criticisms of me are going to cause me to be quiet or take low. He and my comments are not unexpected. He said they're unexpected. Well, his are not unexpected by me either because I know why he came here. I know what he is about. If he's going to defend that kind of action, his view and his morals certainly are different from mine. I don't know what's the matter with Senator Foley. I don't know what planet he came from. And because he understands words so poorly, I'd much rather he criticize me than approve of me because I know the kind of conduct that he himself approves of. So if he wants to bring that down here or anywhere else, I'm always available. Nobody has trouble finding me. With what that having been said, I think Senator Foley knows what my position is. And Senator Foley knows that I'm inviting him to do whatever his views and emotions will lead him to try to do, but I am not a helpless little boy. Senator Bruning, again. My comments are limited to what I felt was wrongdoing or bad decisions on the part of the archbishop. But Senator Chambers, I'm not going to join you when you start bashing a good guy like Mike Foley. I mean, this is a guy who puts his heart and soul into his job, who is a good person, a good family man, and I don't know how this debate ends up degenerating into criticism of Senator Foley. But I for one will not join it because he is a good person trying to do the right things down here. End of legislative debate. Then my comment at the end of the article. Unless the headline called for Curtiss removal ends in apology, March 26, the World-Herald reported on Senator Bruning's abject backtracking like a jet-propelled crawdad. Quote, I realize it's not my place to call for a religious leader's resignation, unquote. Bruning said he was moved not by politics, but by thoughts of his two preschool children when he responded to Senator Chambers' discussion of child pornography allegations against the Reverend Robert Allgaier. In the heat of debate, my passion for children was all I was thinking about. I think Curtiss is a caring person who has given his whole life in service to others, said Bruning. How's that for a dog returning to its vomit, as said Jesus? I need to regret, take back, nor apologize for a single word, nay syllable, I have uttered on this subject and my last word has yet to be uttered. And I wrote more columns and now, who is saying the

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same thing? Attorneys General, top legal officials around the world. In Australia, they sentenced one of those rats to about to six years in prison.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: They're being made to resign. But one of Francis's pets offered his resignation and Francis refused to accept it. Makes me wonder what's going on between them. See, you got to realize that when you engage in stuff that even people on the street don't engage in, then people look at you and wonder what's the matter with you. What are you up? What are you into? And when I said the Catholic Church has morals, or the other way around, La Cosa Nostra, our thing. The mafia have higher standards than the Catholic Church. You let the Cosa Nostra know that some of their people are abusing little children and they would ice them. Their morals don't allow that. Oh, they'll lie, they'll cheat, they'll steal, they'll rob, they'll racketeer, they'll play the numbers, but they will not tolerate child abuse as will the Catholic Church and I'm going to keep on saying it and saying it and saying it--

FOLEY: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --until you root out that evil. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, you've heard the discussion on the reconsideration motion. The question for the body is the adoption of the motion. There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 12 ayes, 5 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

FOLEY: The house is under call. All members please return to your desk and check in. The house is under call. Roll call vote has been requested. All members please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Waiting for Senator La Grone. Senator La Grone, please return to the Chamber and check in. The house is under call. All unexcused members are now present. The question for the body is Senator Chambers' reconsideration motion. A roll call vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 1 aye, 37 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to reconsider.

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FOLEY: The reconsideration motion is not adopted. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 15, 2019.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I quote Abraham Lincoln again. The promise being made must be kept. A person brought a bill before the Judiciary Committee and thought that I was unfair to her in the questions I asked about the bill. And I told her she's making herself too important. She ought to see the way I talk to other people on matters of importance before the committee. It just happens that the other day, March 27th, so it was a few days ago, Director Frakes, the incompetent one, was before the committee. There have been assaults on staff members, on other inmates. There have been riots. There have been resignations, a high overall turnover, low morale and the Governor keeps Frakes there 'cause the Governor brought him here, just like he hired that last head of the state patrol, Rice Krispies, or Krispy Rice. And I had told the Governor when I had seen some of the things that Rice had done, things that he failed to do that he should have done, that he should fire him, and you know what the first word out of the Governor's Office was? Senator Chambers is ridiculous. Guess what happened last-- less than a week later. The Governor fired Rice. And unlike people on this floor who routinely support those who are put before us to be confirmed, I spoke very strongly and longly against Brad Rice getting that position. I make what I think known to the person that I'm talking about and I made it clear, but the majority of my colleagues, like the mice, follow, squeaking because the Governor had spoken. Then the Governor did what I said should be done, Senator Lowe. Not what you did when you voted for Brad Rice and you had plenty of company. You just happened to be the one making eye contact with me, but the rest of them were right there with you and they all cheered, I'm sure, when the Governor was so brave that he had his spokesperson to say Senator Chambers is ridiculous, 'cause he said what you all would like to say. But then he had to swallow spit like a lot of you all would have to do and he did what I said he should do. He fired him. He needs to fire Frakes and if this was happening in any other state, a Governor would have taken action before it reached this crisis stage. But Frakes had done his testifying and I had not had too much to say, so he thought I guess that this was just going to be an easy, smooth little trip. But instead of it being a smooth little trip, he was what they say on the street, he was tripping before it was over. And some other people should watch what I do and learn something about what you have to do in this Legislature. Director Frakes had made his statements. Chambers: Do you have a specific line item in your budget for execution drugs? Frakes: No. Chambers: I read in the paper and you did not say that it was a misprint, that you have no execution drugs and you have no way to procure them. Is that still true? He just sat there. Well, let me put it like this. None of the top drug manufacturers are going to make drugs available for execution now. I can say this because I've directly contacted them. They have

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directly contacted me. You will not get the drugs from them. You will not get the drugs from any of those they supply them to because they sign an agreement that they will not make them available to any state that wants to use them for executions. So when it comes to the pharmaceutical companies and the ones that they distribute to and those who distribute for them, you're not gonna get any death drugs from them. So what is gonna be your source of drugs? Now you're not going to use antifreeze, are you, to execute people with? Frakes: Is that a serious question? Chambers: Yes. That's a serious question. Because you're not going to get any from the pharmaceuticals, so either you're going to use antifreeze, an excess amount of rat poison, or some-- you all are the ones who are talking crazy. Now you can't get the drugs and you admitted it. So I'm asking you, what are you going to do for drugs? Do you have any idea right now? Frakes: I do. Chambers: And where are you going to get them from? Frakes: I'm not going to discuss that in this hearing. Chambers: Say what? Frakes: I'm not going to discuss that in this hearing. Chambers: Are they gonna be from a supplier in this country? Frakes: I'm not going to discuss that in this hearing. Chambers: Are they going to be put together by somebody who has got a compounding factory in Nebraska? Frakes: My answer is the same. Chambers: Say it again. My answer remains the same. I'm not gonna discuss procuring drugs. Chambers: You take the fifth. You don't want to incriminate yourself? Frakes: Well, I don't see in any way how this is germane to today's hearing and testimony for one thing. He's talking about what's germane at a hearing. Chambers: Do you know how you sound right now? This is the most serious thing the state is going to do and you're trifling. All these other things are serious. They don't involve you killing people. You don't have the drugs and you said you don't have them and you cannot get them. And the Supreme Court was persuaded to go along and allow a political execution before your drugs ran out, that you had. The drugs that you have, I know you did not properly store. They were not maintained at the proper temperature. Having that as a fact when they were administered, they did not operate the way they were designed to operate. First of all, they were not designed to kill. And these drugs did not function properly because you did not store and maintain them properly. You know it, and now you know that I know it, don't you? Don't you? You don't want to answer that, do you? You're not saying yea or nay. You're not stunned, are you? Frakes: No, no. Chambers: But you don't want to answer yea or nay, do you? Frakes: I believe we still have an active lawsuit that involves you and me. Chambers: It's not just a lawsuit. Now we're beyond that. That is, we're talking about the way those drugs were maintained. We're not talking about a protocol. You did not properly store those drugs and your people made it clear. There is a temperature below which they are not to be stored and they were not stored at all times below that temperature. Those were the only drugs you had. And they were going to be by date rendered ineffective. But they were ineffective before that date because they were not properly maintained. I see I'm not going to get anything from you. Your silence. Frakes: I'll refer to the grand jury. Chambers: Your silence gives your consent. Frakes: And please, please, look at the grand jury review. Chambers: Your silence gives consent. Scott Frakes: No, certainly not. Chambers: Well, we're going to see what develops. Not through a lawsuit, not through the grand

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jury. And when and if it develops, this transcript is going to be exposed. You are telling me that you properly maintained those drugs--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --at the right temperature the whole time? Isn't that what you're telling me? No, I'm not telling you. I'm not going to discuss this issue today. Chambers: Well, I'll wait until my next time. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You're next in the queue, Senator Chambers, you may continue.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Chambers: Well, if you maintained it correctly, you can answer that. You can say yes, we maintained them at the correct temperature. You don't really know, do you, of your personal knowledge because you don't know what the temperature was supposed to be, did you? Did you have people who told you they were maintained at that temperature? And I know why you closed that curtain and you know why you closed it. And we both know why you refused to answer questions after that execution and wardens had always and directors, after the execution. You ran from that place like a bat out of Hades, and this is so serious. I want it on the record and I've got it on the record now. You might want to find what could we call a reservation or something other than a Boeing 737 Max 7 or 8. And I don't think the Governor is going to take a fall for you, but you're willing to take one for him. And that's all I have. I was just kind of laying back in the weeds looking uninterested, disinterested, listening to the other questions, let you get very comfortable, and you played right into my hands. And you can talk about the grand jury and anything else you want to. To show how significant and insignificant that is, a man who had 16 felony counts brought against him based on what a grand jury said and I said before those charges-- I had said before those charges were dismissed, that's crazy. You don't make that many charges of perjury when one event is involved. Now all of those charges are dismissed. The head of the Chicago Police, the Chicago Police are saying, well, look at what the grand jury did. That means nothing. You thought it gave you cover, but it didn't. And now you know that I know. That's all I have, Madam Chair. And if you would have seen him, his body language would have let you know that he does know what I know. And he knows what I'm talking about. And at some point, it's going to come out. When that execution was done, he closed the curtain and left it closed for 14 minutes. And when he opened it again, Carey Dean Moore was pronounced dead. And the Governor and the Attorney General bear part of the blame. Those drugs had an expiration date coming up very soon. So the Supreme Court allowed this botched execution to take place and it was botched and now they have no drugs. They can't get the drugs. But they want to keep a death penalty just to have it on the books. Let people suffer. That's what Lieutenant Governor Foley is for. He used to be against the death penalty until he got a job with

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the Governor. Then he lost his voice. The cat got his tongue. Quiet as a mouse, when there's a cat in the house. That's what happens with these religious people, these "holy Foleys" and the rest of them. They go for what the Pope says when it's something that will let them dominate women and control a woman's body, control her actions. They had an order of nuns and a Catholic female theologian wrote about it whose specific purpose was to pleasure the priests. That's what they were there for. One of them had gotten four abortions that were made available through the priest.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And you all walk around here strutting and having these marches for life and you've got children dying every day and you don't whimper. Not a word. Run back and forth to church every day. Pray every morning. Salute the flag. And what does it mean? It's worse than a stack of filthy rags. In fact, that's what the "Bibble" said. All your righteousness are as filthy rags. And that's what it is. You all know it and I know it. And I'm going to take more time so that I can show it. And what you all ought to be doing since you think you're so smart, get the Lieutenant Governor to rule me out of order and that I can't say anything else 'cause he doesn't like it. And he thinks it's vile because I call these vile, vile people vile. What kind of place is this? You don't think these kind of things ought to be discussed?

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Senator Chambers, you're recognized for your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. After this I have three more motions, then I'm going to begin amending, offering amendments to Senator Briese' bill. That's what he'd like. If you hadn't talked this man sitting up there into the ruling that he made and your supine colleagues had not a gone along with it, then you'd have voted down my motions. The mere fact that I offered the amendment doesn't mean it's adopted. And you all voted against what we've done. Would you be persuaded if I got journal entries that showed that I had done this on other bills and it was never ruled to violate? The germaneness rule. It wouldn't mean anything to you all 'cause you have no integrity. You're all dishonest. All of you. And you pretend when there is something of interest to you, I don't pick and choose. I will not be bought out. I will not be frightened off. I will not be tricked and made a sucker of. And my enemies can never give me something and then stand up and tell the world, we made you. We made you what you are, now you ought to appreciate it. That's when they let you know what they really don't think of you. But what do I care what anybody else does or says? Sometimes I care. I care what Senator Hunt says. Senator Hunt is a

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woman of integrity. There is no reason for certain things to have been said about her as were said. And we had somebody down here the other day misstate what I said and then somebody jumped to her defense. You all keep these spoiled children spoiled by encouraging them in their childish conduct. You ought to be telling them to pay attention to what's said and get the whole story before you jump up and flap your lips when you don't know what you're talking about. But instead you applaud and you encourage them to do that. That's how little respect you have for each other. So why should I think you have respect for me or anybody who looks like me? Anybody who looks like me. Anybody who looks like me. Don't let them trick you. Don't let them bamboozle you. Don't you become one of those who is always "tooken". And they will take you to the cleaners and they will hurt your feelings and you will say, but I thought. That's the problem. You did not think. You believed. Well, the devil was a liar from the beginning, paraphrasing the "Bibble." There were a group of Muslims. They follow the nation of Islam and their leader was a man named Elijah Muhammad. And white people were outraged because he said the white man is a devil. They were more upset about that than anything else because it was a proper characterization. And then he begins to document things that they did which only a devil would do. But that's what they were upset about. Elijah Muhammad says we're devils. Now, the problem with that is I think the-- that Elijah Muhammad gave the devil a bad rap. See, the devil tells the truth. The devil tells the truth more than he lies. When the devil tempted Jesus on the mountain, he did not tell a single lie.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Everything he said to Jesus was the truth. It was true. Read that "Bibble." See the devil knew Jesus' daddy. They used to talk during the days of the Old Testament. They got along famously. They even made deals and bets on nice little guys like Job minding his own business, and they made a bet that caused Job to lose all of his children, to lose all of his livestock, to have sores of the kind that worms crawled out of. Those who were supposed to be his friends talked about him like he had a tail when he wasn't supposed to have one. And that's because of a bet that God made with the devil so they could enjoy--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --watching this man suffering. Did you say time?

SCHEER: Yes, I did, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you.

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SCHEER: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, seeing no one else in the queue, you're welcome to close on your bracket motion.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are some things that I talk about and I think them through. Sometimes I know a person better than that person may know himself or herself. It's not that they don't know. It's that they're unwilling to give themselves all the credit that they are due. And that's all right, but you should never sell yourself short and you should never play yourself cheap. And I know those about whom I'm speaking will never sell themselves for anything. But what is happening now is what I promised you. But all of you are cackling at that time. Senator Groene was in high spirits. Senator Hansen, B. Hansen, the man who pops bones and arranges bones, even had a comment. And he even said he doesn't stand up very often and speak, which is true, but I'm sure he enjoyed what was going on. I know all the so-called conservatives did. They didn't think there would come a day of reckoning, where are they today? Why aren't they here today talking back? Because they'll help me pass the time. And they know they dare not challenge me because they know everything that I'm saying is true. And there are some truths they don't want to elicit from me because just like I know more than Frakes thought I knew, there's more that I know about you all than you think that I know because those you trust secrets-- entrust secrets to can't keep secrets. They're like a broken icebox. And here is what I have to say to you all when you tell your friends these things and then they let it out. You told your friend his vow was deep. Here is a question for your wisdom shelf. Why did you expect your friend to keep a secret you couldn't keep yourself? If you tell somebody your secret, why do you think they're not going to tell it? And those who betrayed the other day, all you did was made it clear what you are and some of you know that I knew anyway, one of you especially. And I got a transcript and I'm going to read from that transcript, but I have a different one I'm going to read first and it's going to be where I and the second in command of the FBI had an interesting exchange when he showed up in front of the Judiciary Committee asking that a bill be passed into law that would allow them to have undercover license plates. They never could get them while I was here, but once I was gone, I think Senator Pahls was able to get this Legislature to do it and they gave him some kind of award for it. That's what they give you, a trinket. And you treasure it. It shows how little they think of you, like a child. Give them a plaything. They could not get a lethal injection bill through this Legislature while I was here. So they waited 'til I was term limited out. Then under the leadership of former Speaker Flood--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --they finally got this supine body to pass a lethal injection bill and it was a travesty. And what's going to happen now that you can't get the drugs? You'll keep death penalty on the books. You'll keep lethal injection. You cannot in this state go back to the electric chair because the Nebraska Supreme Court abolished it as being cruel and unusual punishment in violation of that provision in the Nebraska Constitution. The federal constitution merely sets the

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floor below which nobody can sink. But any state can do more in the way of protecting its citizens or vindicating its principles than is done by the compromisers who put together the U.S. Constitution. Let's say old J.L. up there is a slaveholder--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Oh, you said time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator.

CHAMBERS: And that was my close?

SCHEER: That was your close.

CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Question before the body is the approval of the bracket bill on April 15.

CHAMBERS: Call of the house and a roll call vote.

SCHEER: There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 7 ayes, 4 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SCHEER: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Slama, would you check in, please. Senator Pansing Brooks, would you check in, please. Thank you. Senator Bolz, would you check in, please. Senator Linehan, would you check in, please. Senator Lathrop, Senator Wishart, please return to the floor. The house is under call. Senator, we're all accounted for. Did you want a roll call vote? Did you request that, Senator Chambers? Senator Chambers? Did you request a roll call vote?

CHAMBERS: Yes, thank you.

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SCHEER: Regular order? Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 0 ayes, 37 nays, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Bracket motion fails. Mr. Clerk. Raise the call.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote on the bracket motion.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on your recommit motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to quote one of America's top literary persons. Surprise, surprise, surprise. And his name is Gomer Pyle. I surprised you all with that motion, didn't I? You didn't think I would do it. I listen to you. You sound like you've been working. I'm the one who is doing all the work. You all are just sitting there, resting, but you sound like you're crestfallen. Your spirit has been taken out of you. You know what this is to demonstrate? The kind of life that you could not possibly survive from if you had to live it. Half of what a black person goes through. A Latino, Latina. Native American. Any of those you consider subhuman. Some, you stole their land because they did not have adequate border security. They thought because if they gave their word and kept it, if you gave your word, you'd keep it to because they had never seen anything like you before. And they hadn't dealt with anything like you before, but you certainly taught them. As Paul Revere and the Raiders said, they took away our native tongue. Taught their English to our young. And you know what else they did? See, I'm not like that white woman out east. I do have native American blood in me and if you saw my grandmother, you would know it because this professor who studies such things was testifying before the Judiciary Committee and I knew he had never seen a picture of my grandmother but he pointed to me, he said, you've got Native American blood, haven't you? I said, the only way you could know that is if you had seen my grandmother. He said, no, it shows. That's what he said and he was right. You know what they did to the Native Americans? See the majority of my ancestry was from those who were owned by people who presumed that one human being could own another one. But they had the might, they had the kill power and the viciousness. They took Native American children from their families and sent them to schools where they tried to whiten them up so that they could amalgamate, so that they could fit in. Fit in, in their country, in their land? They didn't have the word like country where you have artificial boundaries drawn on a piece of paper by white men. They're to fit in, learn how to speak your words. You ought to read what some of your white writers and others wrote about when it came to scalps. You know who used the scalps? White people because there was a bounty on American-- Native Americans and you would get so much money for every scalp that you turned in. And the head of one of those colonies, a white guy talked about how sometimes

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he would walk down the street and he would see them using the heads of Native Americans for kick balls, kicking them down the street. And then if you went a little further he could smell them frying in a pan. This is what white people wrote just like the Nazis wrote about the tortures they put the Jews through and the Catholic priest kept records of how they tortured people during the inquisition. And nobody corrected me when I talked about the witch trials and said they're in Boston, or someplace. By saying someplace, I let you know it's not Boston. If you think of witch trials, Salem automatically comes to mind, the Salem witch trials. In the name of religion. That's how you get rid of people you don't like and you don't want. And when they hadn't done the things that they ought to do, these old men they'd find some old woman who had kept to herself and said, she's the reason for it. She's a witch. And she's the one who cursed the cattle. That's why they miscarry before the calf reaches maturity and is born. She put a spell on the animals. That's what these religious men said. And then you know how they justified it in the "Bible"? They got that big, old "Bible" and they'd lick that nasty thumb and you don't know where his hands had been. Licked that nasty thumb with his nasty tongue and you don't know where that had been either. And based on what they do with these little boys, it could have been anywhere. Got that big, old "Bible", licked his nasty thumb and turned the pages and says right here, right here, white man, the leader, right here it says, in the Old Testament, thou shalt not suffer a witch to live. Right here in God's word. God said it. And God told me to tell you, she's the witch. And these religious fools went and took that old woman, maybe somebody's grandmother, great-grandmother, who certainly at one time was a little baby, and they would either drown her or hang her. And when they would hang witches, they didn't suspend them by having them stand on a trap door and spring the trap and she falls, they would hoist her up so she could get the full benefit of being strangled by Christians in the name of the father, the son, and the holy ghost, amen. May God have mercy on your soul because we sure won't. Christians. And that's what you want to take to other people. Did you see where that young Christian guy was going to this island? It's off the mainland of one of these countries and they forbid people to go to those islands, but he's a Christian missionary and he's going to take his Christianity to these people and guess what happened? When he came, he was met by a shower of arrows and he died. And there were people on the mainland who said, he got what he deserved. He should have left those people alone. They are supposed to be as close to original people as you can find because they don't leave their area and nobody is allowed to go there. And when they saw this fool coming, he was an interloper. He could have brought diseases and probably would have in the same way that these superior Europeans introduce certain diseases to this continent with their nasty selves. Do you know that when the first doctor talked about them washing their hands, they wanted to take away his doctor's license. Your hands don't have to be clean. You know where Listerine got its name from? A guy named Lister. And if you put two and two together and you get four, what would Lister likely have been involved with bringing about as a practice when he came to hygiene and sanitation. These are the things that you all are not taught and you don't read. And you wonder why everywhere you go in the world, people have contempt for you because you're loud, you're raucous, you're disrespectful. You insult their women. You ridicule their customs.

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You don't follow them and you're very, very loud. I don't travel overseas. All I know is what I read and they say that you can always tell when Americans are on the scene.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Did you say time?

SCHEER: One minute, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I will stop for now and wait until I'm recognized.

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

McDONNELL: Last year, we passed LR495. It made today, April 3, 2019, Matthew Oliver Ricketts Day. I'd like to read a few things about Matthew Oliver Ricketts. He was born a slave family on April 3, 1858, near New Castle, in Henry County, Kentucky; and, WHEREAS, after moving to Missouri with his parents and earning a degree from the Lincoln Institute, now Lincoln University of Missouri in Jefferson City, Matthew Ricketts moved to Omaha in 1880 and gained admission to the Omaha Medical College; and, WHEREAS, Matthew Oliver Ricketts received a medical degree in March of 1884, graduating with honors and becoming the first black person to graduate from a Nebraska college or university and the first black person to become a doctor in the state; and, WHEREAS, upon graduation, Dr. Ricketts married Alice Nelson and they raised a family of three children: Richard, Alma, and Helen; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts became known for his skill as a physician and a public speaker, endeavoring to improve the public welfare; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts is credited with the creation of the Negro Fire Department Company in Omaha in 1895 and was a leader of the Prince Hall Masons; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts was the first black person elected to the Nebraska House of Representatives where he served two terms from 1892 through 1896; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts as a Republican led the debate on important issues of the time, his bill to end the ban on missegregation [SIC--miscegenation] passed but was vetoed by Governor Holcomb; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts sponsored one bill that amended the Nebraska Civil Rights Bill of 1865 to change "citizen" to "person" and another bill, which when enacted, prohibited the denial of services in public places to anyone on the account of race; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts died January 15, 1917, in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he had continued his practice of medicine and played a prominent role in the politics of the city after he moved his family there in 1903; and, WHEREAS, Dr. Ricketts dedicated his life to his family, his faith, his profession, and his community, excelling despite poverty, racism, and other limitations of his era, and thereby setting an example for all Nebraskans today. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND

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SESSION, that the Legislature designates April 3, 2019, as Dr. Matthew Oliver Ricketts Day in Nebraska. That all Nebraskans are encouraged to join together to recognize, commemorate, and celebrate the history, accomplishments, and example of Dr. Matthew Oliver Ricketts. And last, that all Nebraskans are encouraged to study civil rights and the lives of other Nebraskans who excelled and contributed to their communities despite hardships. This is our first step of taking Dr. Matthew Oliver Ricketts and making him part of the Nebraska Hall of Fame. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator McDonnell. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Briese, would move to invoke cloture on LB590 pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10.

SCHEER: It is the ruling of the Chair, there's been full and fair debate afforded to LB590. Senator Briese, for what purpose do you rise?

BRIESE: Request a call of the house.

SCHEER: There's been a request for a call of the house. All those in favor please vote aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 21 ayes, 1 nay to go under call, Mr. President.

SCHEER: The house is under call. The house is under call. Senators please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Howard, would you check in, please. Senators Hughes, Kolterman, Lathrop, Morfeld, and Wishart, please return to the floor. The house is under call. Senator Morfeld, would you please check in. Senator Lathrop, the house is under call, would you please return to the floor and check in. We are all here and accounted for. Members, the first vote is the motion to invoke cloture. This will take 33 positive votes. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed-- there has been a request for a roll call vote in regular order. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 44 ayes, 1 nay to invoke cloture, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Cloture is attained. Next item, we will vote on is the reconsideration motion by Senator Chambers. All of those-- there's been a request for roll call vote in regular order--  
reverse order.

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ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 1 aye, 44 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to reconsider.

SCHEER: The bracket motion is not adopted. Next item we will vote on is moving LB590 to E&R. All of those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay? There's been a request for a roll call vote. (Bell ring) A little quicker on that Senator Chambers, would have saved me from the ding, so. Is this regular order or would you like reverse again?

CHAMBERS: Oh, reverse order, thanks for the suggestion. [LAUGHTER]

SCHEER: Reverse it is.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) The vote is 44 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to advance, Mr. President.

SCHEER: LB590 is advanced to E&R engrossing. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to LB217, there are E&R amendments, first of all.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB217 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. E&R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hansen, I have AM946 with a note you wish to withdraw. Is that right? Thank you.

SCHEER: Without objection, so done.

CLERK: Senator Hansen, AM1168, a similar note to withdraw.

M. HANSEN: Correct.

SCHEER: Without objection, so withdrawn.

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CLERK: Senator Hansen would move to amend with AM1184, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Senator Hansen, you're welcome to open on AM1184.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. Members, I have AM1184 which addresses concerns brought to myself and Senator Pansing Brooks following General File debate. Senator Pansing Brooks organized a meeting of stakeholders, including the NEOC and several senators, and this AM is the eventual product of those meetings. I'm appreciative of Senator Pansing Brooks and her work and her work and her willingness to be collaborative. I'll summarize real quickly what AM1184 does. First, it makes changes throughout the bill from the term "compensation" to "wages, benefits, or other compensation." This helps clarify what is meant to be covered by LB217. The main provisions of the new amendment are a new subsection (2), subsections (a) through (f). These are a series of clarifying changes. The amendment states in subsection (2)(a) that the bill does not create an obligation for any employer or employee to disclose any information about compensation. In (2)(b), the amendment does not permit an employee, unless they have written consent of the employer, to disclose any prior proprietary information, trade secret information, or other information subject to legal privilege or protected by law. In (2)(c), it does not permit an employee to discuss information about compensation of other employees to a competitor of the employer. In (2)(d), it clarifies that this language is-- does not apply to employers that are already exempt from the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act, of which this subsection is a part of. In (2)(e), the amendment clarifies that an employee is not prohibited from discussing compensation during work hours, and in (2)(f), nothing will prevent an employee from disseminating information-- nothing will permit, excuse me, an employee from disseminating information to the general public and provides a definition of that term. Finally, there were concerns that LB217 as written would impair existing employment contracts. New subsection (3) adds language that this legislation shall not impair or affect any obligation of any contract in existence prior to the effective date of this act. Employment in Nebraska is commonly at will. However, employment contracts do exist and this provision would not impair those contracts existing prior to this legislation. I think this is a good compromise and urge your adoption of AM1184 and the advancement of LB217. And with that, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Pansing Brooks for further discussion of this compromise.

SCHEER: 7:40.

PANSING BROOKS: OK, thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Hansen, for your intense work on this bill. Also, I want to thank Senators La Grone and Senator Hilgers for some good clarifying suggestions. And also we've had work with the NEOC, the Women's Fund, the NFIB, the State Chamber, and the grocers. Again, we have another "kumbaya"

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moment from perspectives of all sides. Amendments aren't exactly what every senator wants to do to their bill, but we've made some-- some improvements and some other things that I-- I could accept. And we've made sure that we've added to the bill that all federal and state laws will be complied with, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Nebraska Fair Employment Practices Act, the-- and the Nebraska Fair Labor-- the NLRA, the Nebraska Labor Relations Act. So just-- I have a couple questions to get on the record and I wanted to ask Senator La Grone a couple things, if I could, please.

SCHEER: Senator La Grone, would you please yield?

La GRONE: Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you for being willing to help clarify what we're doing in this amendment. First off, there was-- we have decided to add in information defining proprietary information. And the reason we did that and-- and we defined proprietary information and said it does not include information regarding employee wages, benefits, or other compensation, we did that to make sure that-- that no employer could come on and say, oh, well, that's proprietary because it's our information about wages. Is that correct?

La GRONE: Correct, yes.

PANSING BROOKS: So we were talking more about things like proprietary information, like business information and assets and things like that. Isn't that--

La GRONE: Exactly, information that would give business a competitive advantage, that sort of thing, not including wages, correct.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes. Thank you. And then in-- in section (2)(c), we clarified that it protects communications of one's own information and not that of another, because that's basically hearsay, so that makes sense. And then in section (2)(d), we clarified working hours, and I'd like you to say that-- is it your understanding that work-- working hours does not include lunch or any kind of coffee breaks, like employee-- an employee-sanctioned break?

La GRONE: Right. As written, it would depend on how it was defined in the existing workplace policies or in-- or in the contractual provision, but, yes, that is our understanding.

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PANSING BROOKS: So we're-- we're talking about working hours, but if there is a defined time where somebody gets lunch or something like that, even if they're at the-- at the place of business, they can still talk about that.

La GRONE: Correct.

PANSING BROOKS: OK. Thank you. And then we used some words-- we used the phrase "general public" because it was a little bit difficult to exactly say what we wanted to say. We didn't want the information released in a way to distribute to an extremely large public audience. And we also didn't-- pursuant to our communications with the NEOC, we wanted to make sure that there was no intent to destroy credibility of a company. But that's already our-- a standard in law, so-- but I wanted to make sure that you agreed with that as well.

La GRONE: Absolutely. So it essentially, as you said, prevents the wide dissemination of this information to the general public, but it also ensures that the employee can still disclose it to people that they would logically and reasonably need to disclose that information to.

PANSING BROOKS: Exactly. So we-- so under that part, we-- we did look at case law and determined that pursuant to some Supreme Court law, it includes that-- that employee may disclose the information to public officials, judicial officers, legislators, trade associations, and other "reasonable third parties" for the employee's mutual aid or protection. So would you agree that that would include a spouse or friends or the employee's attorney or their accountant?

La GRONE: Yes.

PANSING BROOKS: OK. I agree too. And I just want to clarify, too, that those activities are protected under the NLRA of federal law, Sections 7 and 8, so we basically-- it's protected by the NLRA and not diminished by anything this bill is doing. We-- we are not changing federal law at all. We are not changing the powers or the-- the protections that are set forth in federal law, of course, pursuant to this bill, so federal law reigns supreme over anything we would do in this state law.

La GRONE: Correct, it's-- these two are-- are consistent with one another and I can go into-- if you'd like, on my own time, I can go in more to how the two relate. But, yes, I would agree with your statement.

PANSING BROOKS: OK. So, colleagues, additions are not always perfect to any bill, but I believe the art of compromise means that, you know, perfection can't be the enemy of good. And

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so I think we've-- we are moving the needle in Nebraska. I have a number of groups who believe that is so. Is-- am I moving it as far as I'd like to? No way. Or as far as the groups with whom I've been working want to move it? No, but I do believe that there is some value to moving the needle a little bit, offering protections to people like supervisors and-- and others. Currently the Fair Labor Standards Act covers all employees except those who are under the Railway Labor Act, State and Local Government Act, laborers and supervisors. So we're really-- I-- it's been very interesting because I've understood that the lobby, in-- in essence, really hasn't understood, and I'm not sure everybody in this body understands the full ramifications of the Fair Labor Standards Act. People do not get to stop people from discussing their wages, except for these four exceptions. So we're just saying-- we're closing that loophole. This is the bill. My original bill is the bill that Senator Fischer brought to Congress. We have tightened it a little bit, to some people's dismay and to other people's happiness. So that's, I guess, what we're doing in here, making sausage. So with that, I thank, again, Senator La Grone, Senator Hansen, definitely, and his staff, and of course the NEOC, the Women's Fund, and all the other groups that are helping. Thank you very much.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hansen and Senator Pansing Brooks. Senator La Grone, you're recognized.

La GRONE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to echo what Senator Pansing Brooks said, and I really do appreciate her willingness to work on this. This is really how I think this body is supposed to work. We-- we agreed on a common goal. The-- the work was just getting the language to match that goal. And so I really appreciate her work on this, Senator Hansen's work on this, the committee staff's work on this, and Senator Pansing Brooks's staff work on this, and my own staff. I think this amendment is a good compromise amendment where every-- both sides came together and gave up a little of where their position was to accomplish the goal of filling in the exceptions to the federal rules. So just a really quick overview, federal law essentially gives internal-- inter-- intrabusiness protections to most industries. There are a few industries that fall outside of that, that were not contemplated by the federal law. What this bill does is it extends those protections to those other industries and ensures that that information is kept to where the employees are-- are benefited, they can share that information when appropriate, but it also can be kept private when it needs to be for legitimate purposes. So I really want to thank Senator Pansing Brooks for her work on this. And with that, I would encourage your support of AM1148 and then subsequently, after that amendment is adopted, LB217. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator La Grone. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator M. Hansen a question, if he would respond.

SCHEER: Senator Hansen, would you please yield?

M. HANSEN: Yes, I would.

CHAMBERS: Senator Hansen, you described a meeting that had occurred about this bill, is that correct?

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Who decided who would attend the meeting, or was it kind of a consensus thing?

M. HANSEN: There's been a series of meetings. The first meeting was organized by Senator Pansing Brooks, which-- and I actually did not attend myself the first meeting, but my committee counsel did.

CHAMBERS: Are you a vegetarian?

M. HANSEN: No.

CHAMBERS: Why were vegetarians excluded? I thought maybe you didn't go because you were a vegetarian. Why were they excluded?

M. HANSEN: I don't fully understand the question. I don't know where we excluded--

CHAMBERS: I thought you said she had a meeting of all the steak eaters.

M. HANSEN: Oh. Sorry, just stakeholders.

CHAMBERS: Oh. OK. I stand corrected. Thank you, Senator Hansen. I wanted that for the record, being the defender of the downtrodden. Now I would like to ask Senator La Grone a question or two, if he would respond.

SCHEER: Senator La Grone, would you please yield?

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La GRONE: Absolutely.

CHAMBERS: Senator La Grone, finish this statement, if you know how to do it. Too many cooks--

La GRONE: --in the kitchen?

CHAMBERS: Too many what? Too many cooks?

La GRONE: I-- I don't know the phrase, Senator, I apologize. Oh, "spoil the broth," apparently, is what I'm being told by my colleagues.

CHAMBERS: Yes, too many cooks spoil the broth. Would you mention all those people again that you said were-- who participated, the various staffs and the various individuals?

La GRONE: Well, the-- the individuals in the meetings consistently were Senator Pansing Brooks, myself, Senator Hilgers was there, Senator Hansen's committee counsel was there, Senator Hansen was at a few of them as well, and that was-- that was the core group. We also at other times-- and Senator Hilgers came and we also had some stakeholders at various points.

CHAMBERS: For the record, are you an attorney?

La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Is Senator Hilgers an attorney?

La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Were there any other attorneys present?

La GRONE: Senator Hansen and his committee counsel.

CHAMBERS: It would seem that with all of this legal assistance, this bill would be in the shape it should be in, and I'm going to show you all what happens when I read the bill, when I read the bill. I got a copy of the amendment not too long ago. And, Senator La Grone, would you turn to page 1?

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La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Nothing-- oh, starting in line 8.

La GRONE: OK.

CHAMBERS: "Nothing in this subsection or subdivision," and it gives them, "of this section shall be contrary to applicable state or federal law." Is the U.S. Constitution a part of federal law, in your opinion?

La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Then would you turn to page 2 of the amendment?

La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Beginning in line 6, not to be construed as to-- and then would you finish?

La GRONE: --"impair or affect the obligation of any lawful contract in existence prior to the effective date of this act."

CHAMBERS: Stop after "contract." Are you familiar with the United States Constitution?

La GRONE: Generally. If it's to a specific provision, I might need to refresh, but, yes, generally.

CHAMBERS: Have you read-- do you-- have you read the whole United States Constitution at some point?

La GRONE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: But you wouldn't necessarily know what's in a provision if I just gave the cite to that provision.

SCHEER: One minute.

La GRONE: Correct.

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CHAMBERS: If I said Article I, Section 10, you wouldn't necessarily be aware of what that says.

La GRONE: No.

CHAMBERS: Why would you put something in a bill that simply restates what's in the U.S. Constitution?

La GRONE: So this came-- this was at my suggestion. This-- I can speak to how this specific provision was developed. This was my suggestion after the first round of debate because, if you remember, there was a very good bill that Senator Blood had last year that dealt with contracts for service members, and Senator Schumacher pointed out that that bill may have invalidated some contracts. And so it was an impairment of contract, which is unconstitutional under the constitution as you're well aware, and so this reminded me of that and that was put in there to ensure that we were not going to bring down the bill by unconstitutionally impairing any contracts.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, you all think I'm picking nits when I offer changes.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: A nit is a baby--

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

CHAMBERS: To pick up where a I left off, a nit is a baby louse. And that's why the very small ends of the comb will have teeth that are very close together. And if somebody is a nitpicker, it means they are picky when it comes to little-bitty things. But I think the language of statutes is important. And we do not need to restate what's in the U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 10, says no Legislature shall enact any law that impairs the obligation of contracts. Whether you put that in this statute or not, the U.S. Constitution is supreme. The U.S. Constitution, treaties, federal laws enacted pursuant to these treaties or the constitution, comprise the supreme law of the land. So you can eliminate that language about impairing, impairment. If the contract is not lawful, this language will not save it and you don't need it. An unlawful contract is not enforceable anywhere under any circumstances. If it's not unlawful, no statute can impair it. You could write specifically that certain contracts are impaired, but that would go against the U.S.

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Constitution. There could be certain types of things which federal law might say would not be binding even if it's in an agreement that somebody signed. For example, a nondisclosure agreement may not be legal. But this language is not necessary. You can leave it there if you want to, but you shouldn't want me to read your bills. And there are other things that I see. But all these people got together, all the stakeholders. You know what a stakeholder is? A stakeholder is what it is depending on how you view it. To me, a stakeholder is the one who takes a pointed piece of wood and holds it above the heart of Dracula while somebody else with a mallet drives it through Dracula's heart. That's what a stakeholder is. But I think that's probably not what Senator Hansen had in mind when he mentioned it was a meeting of stakeholders. Now they might have a meeting of stakeholders if I were going to be there and they were going to do to me what they were going to do to Dracula. But then you'd have to have some hold downers before the stakeholders could do whatever it is they came to do. I'm curious to see what they do about this language. It's unnecessary, in my opinion. It's like saying any law enacted by the Legislature must comport with the requirements of the U.S. Constitution. That is a given. You can put it in if you want to, but it's a redundancy and it's unnecessary. So you all should pray to whatever god you believe in, whatever god you pretend to serve, whatever god you ever blaspheme against when you don't serve him, her, they, or it by your conduct, but pray to that god anyway that I won't read your bills. I'm tired of doing work for which I don't even get the minimum wage.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And that's being the legislative garbageman. I'm tired of it. I'm 82 years old. What do I look like being a garbageman at 82 years old? I have a degree from a Jesuit university, a Jesuit university. Not only am I not Catholic, I'm not religious, and I graduated from a Catholic university and then I graduated from a law school. They kept me out for over a decade. But finally, justice, although slow, was served. The wheels or the mills of the gods grind exceedingly slow, but they grind exceeding fine. So I also have a law degree. And here I am, fulfilling the role of a humble garbageman.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Was that my third time?

SCHEER: That was your second time. And indeed, this would be your third time at the mike, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I can't let a bill go by without saying something. And it looked to me like they may have been having a meeting of the stakeholders, trying to figure out

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how to get me in a position where somebody could hold that stake over me and then somebody else would get a mallet and drive it home. But the mistake they would make when it comes to me is that there's no heart through which the stake can pass, so they'd be frustrated. But with all of that, why can't all of us read these bills? Because not all of us care. And I'm going to continue to offer my amendment that Mr. Foley ruled out of order. And tomorrow, I'm going to deliver on my promise to show you where Mr. Foley and I had a set-to, verbal, on the floor of this Legislature by him sitting up that chair when he should not have and injected himself into our proceedings when he shouldn't have done it. And these people, these people sitting in this Legislature, went along with him. They were-- he was wrong as two left shoes and so were they. They were voting against me. I can get you to vote against your own best interest. That's what proves I own this Legislature. You belong to me. I make you behave like fools. I make you violate your own rules, even after I'd explained to you. But you dislike me so much that you will violate your own rules, just like the white people in general hate me so much they term limited everybody to get rid of one black man and, good God from glory, he came back. I'm going to get some evidence and show you all the validity of what I'm saying, then I'm going to mock you, I'm going to ridicule you, I'm going to scorn you. And you ought to be ashamed but you won't because you have no shame. Hate overcomes shame. Hate is stronger than shame. And when you are afflicted by the sheep mentality, you follow, or the lemming lunacy where you all jump off the cliff because the one in front of you did it. That's what you're going to hear from me. Now where am I going to get that evidence? My saying it is not enough. But there are some people who are here and they saw it done. I'm going to get my pound of flesh. That's an expression from the bard, Shakespeare. Shakespeare was 46 years old when the King James Version of the "Bible" was completed. There is a collection of Psalms, which are songs. Shakespeare was 46 years old. Look at the year when the "Bible" was completed. Count 46 words from the beginning and 46 words from the end. At the end of some of these songs is the word "selah." Don't count that. That's not a part of the song. Count 46 from the beginning and 46 from the end and you'll get the surprise of your wicked life. And you should wonder--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --how in the world somebody is going to find this. What else may whoever that person is have counted in the "Bible" and have come up with something like this? You don't know, do you? You underestimate somebody when your hatred is so overwhelming. But I thrive on it. There was a movie which I will tell you about after this bill moves because I think this is my third time, correct, Mr. Speaker? Is this my third time?

SCHEER: That is correct.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. I'm through.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Hansen, you're welcome to close on AM1184.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. AM1184 is a good compromise amendment worked on primarily by Senator Pansing Brooks, and I appreciate Senator La Grone and Senator Hilgers for working on it. I-- I think it improves the bill, LB217, and I would urge your favorable vote on AM1184 and LB217. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hansen. The question before us is adoption of AM1184. All of those in favor please vote aye; all of those opposed vote nay. Senator, I think you might want to wait just a second. Please record.

PANSING BROOKS: All right. I don't think I do. I've worked too hard on this. Get people in here.

SCHEER: Patty. Patty. Patty.

PANSING BROOKS: What?

SCHEER: You just going to waive closing?

PANSING BROOKS: I am.

SCHEER: Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays to adopt Senator Hansen's amendment.

SCHEER: AM1184 is adopted. Senator Pansing--

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you. Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB217 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

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SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All of those in favor please say aye. All of those opposed, nay. LB217 is advanced to E&R-- engrossing. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Slama, with respect to LB269, I do have E&R amendments pending.

SCHEER: Senator Slama, a motion?

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB269 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you heard the motion. All those in favor please vote aye. All of those opposed vote-- all those please say aye. All those opposed say nay. E&R-- Enrollment amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wayne had filed AM1100, AM1101, AM1102, AM1103, AM1104. I had a note from him that he wishes to withdraw.

SCHEER: Is that correct, Senator Wayne?

WAYNE: Yes.

SCHEER: Without objection, so ordered.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB269 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please vote aye; all those-- all those in favor please say aye. Getting ahead of myself here. All those opposed say nay. LB269 is advanced to E&R-- engrossing. Next item.

CLERK: LB270, Senator. I have E&R amendments pending.

SCHEER: Senator Slama.

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SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB270 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. The E&R-- Enrollment amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Wayne, I have FA37, Senator.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, you're welcome to open.

WAYNE: Thank you. Colleagues, I appreciate Senator Chambers for taking time yesterday evening and today to allow me to go back and strategize my-- my intentions going forward. My intentions going forward are to-- like I said yesterday in my last remarks, it's time for us to-- obviously we kind of fell apart a little bit. I think that's a good thing it happened now, earlier in the session, even though it's halfway through, then, too, when we start talking about some bigger, bigger, bigger issues that some of you guys all feel. I look forward to LR14 coming back up and having a real debate and having conversations about it, but in no way am I backing down from what I believe is needed for my community and what my community is demanding of me at this time. But I have through no influence but myself, Senator Chambers, decided that it was fun to go. I had the feeling of playing basketball in college again, so it's no problem getting back to that level and going three hours and three hours and maybe longer. I just hope we don't have to get there anymore. I hope that the lessons we've learned through-- whether it's miscommunication or intentional deceit, it stops and has stopped and that we can continue to work toward some bigger goals and better goals for all communities. But I think it's important, whether it's today, tomorrow, or the 90th day, to try to empathize. That isn't sympathy, it's empathy, and what I mean by that is to step in other people's shoes to understand the historical context of how they are viewing things and how some communities feel left behind, how some communities feel intentionally discriminated and pushed down by our government, and that there is a historical context that we all are not starting off on an even foot, that some parts of America and some parts of Nebraska has an advantage over others. And just because we're trying to even the playing field does not insult on where you are or how you got here. But it's just a way to make sure that the people we represent have the same opportunities and the fair opportunities that you all have. So I look forward to more debate. I look forward to more conversation. And we are going to get to a point where we will disagree and that's OK. But then we get to another point of what's most important, because what happens is just what happened with Senator Pansing Brooks's bill. Not everybody walked away happy, but they sat down and they found a way to get there. And there's going to be times that we can't and I recognize that. But me fighting for my community is not me fighting against you. It is me fighting for my community because for far too long it's been neglected. So with that, I will withdraw my motion and any additional motions on this particular bill.

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SCHEER: Without objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, with the withdrawal of those motions and amendments, Senator Slama, I have nothing further pending to the bill.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB270 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB270 is advanced to E&R-- engrossing. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB348, Senator. I have no amendments to the bill.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB348 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those-- oh, excuse me. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I'm just looking to make sure I didn't file an amendment on this one since I filed amendments on pretty much everybody. Since I didn't, that's all I have to say. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you for your brevity. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB348 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please vote-- please say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB348 is advancing to E&R-- engrossing. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB409, Senator. I have no amendments to the bill.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

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SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB409 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB409 is advanced to E&R-- engrossing. A few items, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Before the body proceeds, Enrollment and Review reports LB243 and LB449 on Final Reading. Government Committee reports LB98 to General File with committee amendments attached. And new resolution, LR77, offered by Senator Slama. That will be laid over, Mr. President. That's all that I have.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, General File, LB212, introduced by the Government Committee, signed by its members. (Read title.) Introduced on January 11 of this year, at that time referred to the Government Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Brewer, as Chairman of the Government Committee, you're welcome to open on LB212.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. LB212 is a Government Committee bill that makes changes to the Open Meetings Act. These changes apply only to certain government entities. First will be the electrical and natural gas wholesalers under the Interlocal Agreement [SIC] Act. Second will be organizations created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act. Three will be risk management pools. This bill does three things to the public meeting requirements for these bodies. Keep in mind that all these changes have to do with meetings conducted by telephone or video. First, a nonvoting stand-in can-- could hold a public meeting site open if an actual member cannot attend. If someone is sick, this change would prevent the meeting from not being able to be conducted at all. Second, more than 50 percent of the meeting could be conducted with remote meetings. And the third one is the time limit for each remote meeting would not extend beyond five hours. Currently it's two hours. This bill makes it easier for the government bodies to do their work that they're assigned and prevents-- and provides transparency for these public meetings. LB212 was heard on February 6 before the Government Committee and came out of committee with no opposition. It did come out with a committee amendment, AM38-- AM380. AM380 adds on two other bills on this public transparency and open meetings portion. First of it-- first is Senator La Grone's LB191 which deals with bonding. And the second is Senator Dorn's LB239 which deals with the notice requirements in the County Budget Act. I will let both of them explain their details-- the details of their bills. I would

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encourage you to adopt the committee amendment of AM380 and vote green on LB212. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. As the Clerk had noticed, there is a committee amendment to the bill. Senator Brewer, you're welcome to open on that.

BREWER: All right. AM238-- thank you, Mr. President.

\_\_\_\_\_ : AM380, Sir.

BREWER: Oh, AM380.

\_\_\_\_\_ : That's the second page you just read.

BREWER: Oh, well, we're-- we're through on-- on AM380 then. Went on-- I went through it already.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendments, AM1139.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on AM1139.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am no less determined now than I was when I first embarked upon this journey. Because I have offered this before, I don't have to go into detail about the specifics. But it comprises the precise language of the bill that Senator Hunt introduced with reference to making food stamp benefits available to people who had been locked up for certain crimes. I am presenting the form in my amendment that the green copy had to give a second chance for this body to do the right thing by undoing the wrong thing that was done. A majority of the senators voted in a principled way. I didn't touch any of their bills. I have no intention to touch any of them from the standpoint of trying to delay. That last bill, I had some things to say because I genuinely disagreed with putting language into it that was not needed. But people get so desperate and so worried that they will offer what is a bad bill. But because it has moved, I may offer an amendment when it gets to us on Select File to strike redundant language unless somebody can explain to me how the Legislature can enact a bill into law that violates a specific provision of the U.S. Constitution. The constitution means something. It means something to you all. It means something to me for a different reason. I use it as a stick

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or a club to try to persuade you to do the right thing toward all people. Let this be in fact the land of the free and the home of the brave and a place where there is liberty and justice for all. Justice can be an abstract concept meaning that in a philosophical or moral sense, even, a person gets that to which he or she is due. In a legal sense it means granting to people what they are due under the law. And the law doesn't deal with moral right and wrong. It deals with orders, dictates, fiats. You'll do this or suffer the consequences. What I am offering here goes to a principle that is very deep with me. When there are people who, because of having made bad choices, need a hand up and not to be beaten down, those are the people that I try to help and I will always try to help them, no matter how many times this body rebuffs me. But I'm going to put you in a position where you're going to have to vote again and again against a process that is a part of the legislative process, but when a black man does it, then it's different, it doesn't apply, and that's the way so much of your constitution is, and that's why I refer to that flag as a rag. It doesn't apply to me. Your legislative rules don't even apply where I'm involved, or you think that I'm a liar. But I know what has happened on the floor of this Legislature and I know the rulings that have been made. And I know that a person can be in that chair and rule arbitrarily, as Lieutenant Governor Foley has done, sitting up there on bills that he should not have, carrying out the Governor's will. The Governor does not like this SNAP bill. That's why he called some of you all out there and cracked the whip over you. Why do you think Foley was sitting up there today? He hasn't been coming around here with us. Didn't you hear me specifically welcome him back? Why did he come today? He has to carry out the Governor's will because he's a boot licker for the Governor too. And you all say, well, Ernie, if you wouldn't say those things, we would do the right thing. You ought to do the right things in spite of what I say. But to spite me, you're going to do the wrong thing and you're going to defile your own rules. That's why I say I own you. I make you do that which, according to your rules, you ought not do. And whenever I can affect you that much, I own you and I'm going to rub that in. And you can do again now what had been done before. We have a different person in the chair. Senator Williams didn't know anything. Senator Foley had his marching orders. Well, we now have the Speaker. Three strikes, they say, and you're out. But there is additional work that I have to do because there are additional bills that I must deal with. And I will tell you the truth. I'm dealing with the introducer of those bills. Now you can try to deal with me if you want to. I'm dealing in accord with what our rules have been interpreted to allow. The rules allow it. I have done it. But because I've done it, you all will vote against it, and I got the voting record. All of you voted against it. You weren't voting against that rule. You don't even know what it is. You were voting against me to teach me a lesson, but you cannot teach me that which I already know. It's a redundancy. It's superfluous. It's duplicative. But that's the way you all operate because that's the level on which you operate. This motion that I'm offering, this amendment that I'm proposing, would strike all language, all the original language and any amendments that have been added to this bill, and this language that I'm offering would then replace everything in that bill. And that's what this is about, strictly speaking, but it's about something else and we all know what that something else is. And every one of you has been swayed to do the wrong thing because I freed you by saying you don't have

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to vote for anything that I bring up, and you don't. Stay with your friends. Stay with those who betrayed you. Stay with those who made you do extra work. There's nothing on this floor that means so much to me that I will let myself be done that way because of what it would make me become. And it won't affect you that way. My standards are just too high to be in this Legislature and behave other than the way that I do. If I could lower my personal standards, I could be like the rest of you all. But I do know what it is that I believe. I do know the standard that I've set on myself. And that's why I will do more--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --as far as the proper conduct, based on what I believe in, than any promise of heaven would make me do or any threat of hell. They may exist. They may not. But I do know what exists, that something inside of me that governs me and what I do. And it's why any one of you would feel reassured and more confidence if you could persuade me to be on your side on anything. Who would you most like to have on your side? I'm not bragging: me. Who would you rather not have against you more than anybody else? Again, me. You know it and I know it and the difference between us is that I will say it. But it doesn't make me prideful, it doesn't add anything to me. I am complete in what I am right now. I don't need anybody's approval--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --and I will not be diminished by anybody's rejection.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

DORN: Thank you, Mr. President. LB-- the amendment here, AM380, the Government amendment from the committee, included a bill that I had introduced, LB239. It-- they put that bill into this LB212 bill. LB239 basically harmonizes provisions from the Nebraska Budget Act and the County Budget Act. Counties are subject to both acts. When the Nebraska Budget Act was revised in 2017, the County Budget Act was not changed. So LB239, which was the original bill for this, would revise the conflicting provisions in the County Budget Act-- the Budget Act to mirror the Nebraska Budget Act. The bill would change requirements for publication of notice of budget hearings from five days to four calendar days prior to the date set for the hearing. The count would include the date of publication but not the date of the hearing. The NACO-- the

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county organization brought this to me and asked me if I would introduce this bill because we had two conflicting budget acts now. We have the Nebraska Budget Act and the County Budget Acts. They were not the same. One is five days; one is four days. What this bill that I brought forward, the LB239 that now is in the Government amendment, AM380, that incorporates this bill into there and it basically puts those two dates the same. So if anybody had any questions about that, I sure would be glad to visit with them. Otherwise, I'll yield my time to Senator La Grone.

SCHEER: Senator La Grone, 2:55.

La GRONE: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll just use this and turn my light off. The committee amendment also includes my LB191, which is the Auditor's clean-up bill. It does three things. First, it changes the definition of bonds to the definition found in Section 10-134 and deletes unnecessary language requiring financial instruments approved and agreed upon prior to July 1999. It also codifies that a government unit may exceed the allowable growth percentage for a period of one year if approved by voters at a meeting. This is to clean up confusion regarding governmental units with biennial budgets who asked the State Auditor if a single vote could approve a budget increase twice, one for each year. And the Auditor has always interpreted that as needing a separate vote for each increase, and so this gets rid of the ambiguity in the statute and simply codifies the Auditor's interpretation. Finally, LB191, again, included in AM380, changes the days of publication prior to a budget hearing from five days to four days, and defines them as four calendar days that shall include the day of the publication but not the day of the hearing. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Dorn and Senator La Grone. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Chambers, you're welcome to close on AM1139.

CHAMBERS: Now, Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this is the way it should have been done every time. The amendment can be offered. That doesn't mean it will be adopted. Of course I think that it should be, but my feelings are not hurt if it's not. But so that it's clear what is happening here, if you adopt my amendment, it will strike everything which currently is in the bill. All that will be left is the number "212." And under that number will be the amendment that I'm offering. I don't want to deceive anybody. I have a reason for doing this. Those who voted against this bill that I'm using as an amendment to the Government Committee bill, those who voted against it in its amended form certainly are not going to vote for it in this form, which does not have that so-called compromise amendment. I had pointed out that my intention is to take time. What those other people who call themselves senators led me to do was to take a lot more time than would have been taken had my amendment been entertained and voted on one way or the other. You could have voted it down and that would have been the end of it. But Senator

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Slama got all the old men over there bedazzled and made fools out of all of them and they made fools out of themselves. They don't listen to me. You ought to listen to somebody who's been here and who knows something try to explain something to you and tell you a way out of what it seemed like you were going into. But you couldn't hear. You refuse to listen. Then all these other dumbbell senators went along with you and that's why you wound up not getting as much done today as you could have. You should have done what Senator-- well, by being a committee, well, I guess all of them, but Senator Brewer is the one in charge of it. If you're in the military and you can eliminate an enemy's ability to harm you, you do the minimum, that which will cost you the minimum in person power and materiel. You wouldn't shoot somebody-- well, when I was in, using M1, you all don't know what that is, but anyway, whatever you use now, a single shot would kill the person. All the people in the company don't run up and stand over that person and empty their weapons just because they can and that person was designated the enemy. When that person can no longer do harm, you have neutralized the enemy, and that's what you're trying to do. It's why if you can capture a group of living combatants, you're not allowed--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --under the law of war, without violating it, to kill all of them once they have surrendered or you've taken them captive. That's a war crime. On this floor, you need to learn how to listen, but you can't because your hatred deafens you and blinds you. The mere offering of an amendment does not guarantee its acceptance. Let the vote be taken. Even if a motion is made to reconsider, that's two items. But when you think you're smart, then you open the way for numerous motions, reconsiderations, and all the rest trying to teach you, because I've told you, experience is the best teacher and some will have no other. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The question before us is adoption of AM1139. All those in favor please vote aye. All those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted that wish to? Senator Wishart, for what purpose do you rise?

WISHART: [RECORDER MALFUNCTION]

SCHEER: So noted. Please record.

CLERK: 1 aye, 27 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment.

SCHEER: AM1139 is not approved. Going back to AM380, Senator Chambers.

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CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, now was that so painful? You don't listen. You don't pay attention. Do you think that Senator Brewer was not here and heard all that silliness that Senator Slama got all you old men to go into? Usually I call you whippersnappers. But in this case, you're old men. You don't pay attention. And you can make this a better session or you can make it a bitter session. Now there are other bills on this agenda that I will attempt to offer my amendment and we'll see what happens. Now probably all of them are lucky that Senator Slama is not here to give them the double-whammy look. I know what's going through your old minds, you old fogies. [LAUGH] When was there ever a time when a man old enough to be their daddy can call them old and it be true? There are people on this floor older than I am and I'm closer to 100 than I am to 60. [LAUGH] This is their doing and when they do it, they're going to get it. And there are other bills that I'm going to do this with. Senator Williams didn't know anything. Senator Foley had an agenda. The Speaker knows something and wants to facilitate the movement of the body. There will come points before this session is over when I will help the Speaker facilitate handling a logjam smoother than otherwise would be the case. Whether you know it or not, whether you can understand it or not, I do care about the Legislature as an institution, more, I will say, than anybody else on this floor, maybe more than anybody who has ever been here. You don't recognize the power that this Legislature has, and if it would be exercised in the proper way, you would develop what could be called a certain degree of majesty. It would then be the majesty and power of the Legislature because it is going to use that power in the right way to benefit those who need what a government should offer those who cannot help themselves. And some people, through their own fault, fall into bad situations. But if it's a family member, we show understanding. If it's somebody we feel that affection that's termed love, we make a lot of excuses and do a lot of forgiving. If we could learn how to look at everybody who is unfortunate in that manner, if they've done wrong and violated the law, there's a price they have to pay, but after that price has been paid, get your foot off of them, let them rejoin the human family, give them a chance to redeem themselves and make atonement. But some--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --want to keep them down and make sure they don't arise, don't have a chance. But if it was their family member, they would think and feel differently. That's why I'm better than any Christian, because I know how I would want myself to be treated. I know how I would want those who mean something to me to be treated, and that makes it very easy for me to put myself in the position of somebody who cares about that one who is down and out and is trying to help that one who is down and out by lending a hand and not calling it a handout and say walk when you don't have feet, run when you're paralyzed from the waist down, wrap somebody in chains and throw them out of the boat and say, take heed, lest you sink. And that is what Christianity is about. I'd rather be a son of perdition if that's what I am.

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SCHEER: Time Senator.

CHAMBERS: It doesn't matter to me what anybody labels me.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Brewer, you're welcome to close on AM380.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to say as a quick reminder, the original bill, LB212, was simply making changes to the Open Meetings Act. AM380 was a combination of two bills, LB191 and LB239. I would ask for your green vote on AM380. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. The question before us is adoption of AM380. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have we all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

SCHEER: AM380 is adopted. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Brewer, you're welcome to close on LB212.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. Again, LB212 is a Government bill, simply pertains to changing the Open Meetings Act with the amount of time that a meeting can have and whether or not you can have a stand-in for that meeting. So with that said, thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Brewer. The question before us, advancing LB212 to E&R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB212.

SCHEER: LB212 is advanced to E&R Initial. Senator Blood. Or, excuse me, Mr. Clerk, next item.

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CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill is LB15. (Read title.) Introduced on January 10, referred to the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Blood, you're welcome to open on LB15.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow senators, friends all, today I finally rise to bring forward LB15, the Children of Nebraska Hearing Aid Act. First, I would like to thank the Speaker for designating this as one of his priority bills. Hearing empowers us and helps us lead our everyday lives without limitations. It provides us the ability to socialize, work, and communicate. It allows us to stay connected to the outside world and keeps us safe by warning us of potential danger. With a price tag of \$1,500 to \$3,000 apiece, a hearing aid is a device that many cannot afford and families are surprised when their health insurance in Nebraska does not cover that expense, as it is considered elective. While researching this bill over the summer, it became very clear that the reasons for the lack of coverage vary, according to who you ask. An insurance company may feel this is elective, but for a deaf child, hearing aids are a lifeline. Without the ability to hear, a child's quality of life can drop dramatically. Children with hearing loss can become isolated and have trouble engaging in life, have issues in learning with language and other important skills that help them become part of the communities here in Nebraska. So the elephant in the room asks all of us, how can you expect a child to be properly educated, learn language and social skills, if they can't hear? Some of you may say through sign language, because there's a common misconception in the hearing community that American Sign Language is a derivative of English and, therefore, not a language by itself. However, the truth is, is that American Sign Language originated independently of English linguistic influence and is, in fact, its own language with its own set of rules. In Nebraska, it's calculated on average that 69 children per year meet the requirement for hearing aids. When you break down the numbers of who may be covered by Medicaid, participate in the Hear You program, or are uninsured, you're really speaking about a small handful of children under age 18 that this bill applies to each year. LB15 is asking that Nebraska health insurance companies take on the cost of these devices with specific exemptions for small businesses. I included this exemption because we certainly don't want to burden the members of those plans with increased premiums. This act will result in each child receiving coverage for each ear affected by hearing impairment and include a hearing aid purchase from licensed audiologists and costs related to dispensing and repairing such hearing aid, evaluation for a hearing aid, fitting of a hearing aid, programming of a hearing aid, probe microphone measurements for verification that hearing aid gain and output meets the prescribed targets, follow-up adjustments, ear mold impressions, ear molds, auditory rehabilitation and training, all on a continual basis to the extent that benefits paid for such items and services during the immediately preceding 48-month period have not exceeded \$3,000. Nineteen years ago, this body decided to pass LB950, which was universal newborn hearing legislation. Starting December 1, 2003, all Nebraska birthing facilities began including hearing screening as part of

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their standard care for newborns. With LB15, we are taking those efforts to what I believe should have been the next step in the process for Nebraska's children well over a decade ago when LB950 was initially passed by this body. I have been truly touched by the bipartisan support this body has shown for this important bill, and I'm actually sad that many people are not in the Chambers that have cosponsored. I believe it gives a positive message that when it comes to caring for the future of Nebraska's children, we really can come together to move a bill forward. I'd also like to thank our state's health insurance companies that were willing to work with me last year so I could better craft and recraft the language that brought us to middle ground in today's version. I will point out that I support the upcoming committee amendment, as I requested the language change at the hearing. And with that, I ask you that you please, please support LB15 by enthusiastically pushing your green button to move this bill through the process. And I thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Blood. Senator Williams, as Chairman of the Banking and Insurance Committee, you're welcome to open on the amendment.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Senator Blood for bringing this. The committee amendments to our AM410 were offered by Senator Blood during her testimony at the hearing for LB15. The bill as introduced would provide that a hearing impairment must be diagnosed by a licensed audiologist. LB-- excuse me, AM410 would provide that the impairment must be diagnosed by an otolaryngologist, if I could say that four times quickly, with an auditory assessment completed by a licensed audiologist. The bill as introduced would provide that a hearing aid purchased from a licensed audiologist is covered. AM410 would further require a medical clearance from an otolaryngologist prior to the hearing aid being covered. I would urge the adoption of the committee amendment, AM410, and the advancement of LB15. This was heard in Banking Committee on March 4 and was voted out with no negative votes. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Williams. The question before us is adoption of AM410. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of committee amendments.

SCHEER: AM410 is adopted. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Blood, you're welcome to close on LB15.

BLOOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to personally thank Senator Williams for practicing "otolaryngology" because I know that was a hard one for you. And a lot of you know that when the Speaker-- it's been a long week-- made it-- this his priority bill, that I cried like I'm

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doing right now. This bill is going to help children, children that are in your districts, children that we know. There's not a lot of legislation that we know will actually touch someone's life. And for some of you that know me well, know I was deaf as a child, so this is very close to my heart and I thank you for your vote. And I'm sorry I cried on the mike.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Blood. The question before us is adoption of LB15 to E&R Initial. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the motion to advance the bill to E&R Initial, Mr. President.

SCHEER: LB15 is advanced to E&R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, an amendment to be printed, Senator Kolterman on LB316. Senator Brewer would like to add his name to LB641.

Senator Kolterman would move to adjourn the body until Thursday, April 4, at 9:00 a.m.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.