

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FOLEY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fortieth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Our chaplain for today is Dr. Barry Kennard of the Lakeside Community Church of the Nazarene in Hastings, Nebraska, Senator Halloran's district. Please rise.

DR. BARRY KENNARD: Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, holy, holy, holy are you, Lord Almighty. Today, as we gather for this important day for this fortieth day of business, Lord, we pray that your presence would be in this place, that God, as business is discussed, that as decisions are made, that as choices are taken, that Father, you would lead. You would guide, and that your wisdom would be here. That Father, we need to know your mind and we need to be able to think greater than we can think ourselves. And so, Father, we pray for the peace. And we pray for that presence that only you can give to be here in this day. Now we thank you for these servants, for-- for these men and women who serve faithfully and come here to-- to lead this great state. Father, we pray for blessings upon each and every person, upon those who come and go. And Lord, in these moments where fear seems to be grip-- gripping our nation or the anxiety with pandemics and disease are abounding, Lord, may you just move and may you calm spirits. May you allow decisions to be made that need to be made. So, Father, in these moments, may we rest in you, may we trust in you, and we thank you for this day. It's in your name we pray. Amen.

FOLEY: Thank you. I call to order the fortieth day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, Second Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

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

CLERK: I have no corrections.

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

CLERK: Mr. President, the lobby report, as required by state law to be inserted in the Legislative Journal and the acknowledgement of

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

received agency reports on file on the legislative website. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, sir. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign the following three legislative resolutions: LR334, LR335, and LR336. Senator Slama would like us to recognize some guests today. We have a delegation from Leadership Nebraska City Class number 15 from Nebraska City, and those guests are with us in the north balcony. If we could ask them to please rise, I'd like to welcome you all to the Nebraska Legislature. We'll now proceed to the agenda. General File appropriations bills, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB911A by Senator Quick. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations, and it appropriates funds to aid in carrying out the provisions of LB911.

FOLEY: Senator Quick, you're recognized to open on LB911A.

QUICK: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. This is the A bill that goes with LB911, which would authorize a state cemetery at-- at the existing Grand Island Veterans Home cemetery. We adopted an amendment on General File that clarifies the funding for the initial program statement will come from the Veteran Cemetery Operation Fund. The A bill moves the money from the Veteran Cemetery Operation Fund that is managed by the Department of Veterans Affairs through program number 930 H, which would set up the future state cemetery in Grand Island. I would appreciate your green vote on this A bill so it can catch up with LB911 on Select. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Quick. Is there any discussion on the bill? I see none. Senator Quick, you're recognized to close. He waives close, and the question before the body is the advancement of LB911A to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB911A.

FOLEY: LB911A advances. Next bill, please.

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: LB965A by Senator McDonnell. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations. It appropriates funds to carry out the provisions of LB965.

FOLEY: Senator McDonnell, you're recognized to open on LB965A.

McDONNELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Just a quick recap and summary of LB965 proposed to enhance kindergarten readiness for children who are deaf and hard of hearing, and to better prepare these individuals for overall success in life by establishing and coordinating a language assessment program to assist, monitor and track language development milestones for children birth through age 5. The bill also incorporates provisions from LB839 through the adopted committee amendment, which declares that American Sign Language is recognized by the state of Nebraska as a distinct and separate language. The bill and attached amendment advanced from General File with overwhelming support, 45 to 0. LB965A provides the necessary appropriations as outlined in the fiscal note to aid in carrying out the provisions of this bill. Once again, I would greatly appreciate your-- your continued support. Also, I would like to thank Speaker Scheer for making this one of his priority bills, Senator Groene, and all the members of Education Committee that worked with Senator Wishart and I on this bill.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McDonnell. Is there any discussion on the bill? I see none. Senator McDonnell, you're recognized to close. He waives closing. The question for the body is the advancement of LB965A to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of LB965A.

FOLEY: LB965A advances. Next bill, please.

CLERK: LB1185A by Senator Howard. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations. It appropriates funds to implement the provisions of LB1185.

FOLEY: Senator Howard, you're recognized to open on LB1185A.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. LB1185A distributes funds from the Nebraska State Patrol Cash Fund to support the Nebraska State Patrol in carrying out the provisions of LB1185, specifically the processing of fingerprints and criminal history

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

background checks. As discussed, the individuals and provider-- providers that are subject to the fingerprinting requirements will pay the cost of fingerprinting. And when those fees are paid and collected, the revenue from the fees will go into the Nebraska State Patrol Cash Fund. LB1185A distributes the revenue from those fees to pay for the staff that will be processing the fingerprints, sending them to the FBI, and conducting the additional background checks. Specifically, a little over \$45,000 will be appropriated from cash funds for each year in fiscal year '21 and fiscal year '22. I would urge your green vote on LB1185A. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Howard. Is there any discussion on the bill? I see none, Senator Howard. She close-- she waives closing. The question before the body is the advance of LB1185A to E&R Initial. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record, please.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays on the advancement of LB1185A.

FOLEY: LB1185A advances. Per the agenda, we'll now move to General File budget bills. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB1008, introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. It's a bill for an act relating to appropriations. It amends laws 2019, LB294; defines and redefines terms; it provides change; and eliminates appropriations for operation of state government, state aid, postsecondary education, and capital construction; and provides for a transfer of funds. Introduced on January 15, referred to the Appropriations Committee, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Stinner, you're recognized to open on LB1008.

STINNER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'd like to start the presentation with quite a few thank yous. A lot of people are involved in this process, and they certainly need to be thanked. I'd like to thank, first of all, the Governor and his staff, especially Gerry Oligmueller and his budget staff for their hard work in presenting a very thoughtful and comprehensive approach to their recommendations. Next, I'd like to thank the fiscal staff for all their work, not only with this budget bill, but with their work so far this year with fiscal notes. I would like them to stand and be

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

acknowledged by the Legislature. I'd also like to especially thank Mike Lovelace, who has taken over as assistant director over the last two years. This is Mike's maiden voyage, I guess, for lack of a better term. He is going to retire after this session. Mike is a 40-plus year person. We certainly have benefited from him being here, and we thank him for-- for his longevity and his efforts and contributions to the state of Nebraska. Mike, would you stand and be acknowledged, please? Next, I'd like to thank each member of the Appropriations Committee, their hard work and dedication. Each and every one member contributed to this proposal. I just want to thank them for all their hard work. They showed up ready to work, they put in a best-case effort, and I thank them for that. Just talking about the Governor's recommendation, and you can follow a lot of this in the green copy. Numerically follow it, as well as a lot of information that it fills in behind it. But to remind you a little bit, the Governor made some recommendations, and I'll try to go through the major items in those recommendations. In most of these-- or all of these recommendations are incorporated into our budget recommendation. The first one, the large recommendation was replenishing or providing the Governor's emergency fund with \$53 million was the request at 9.2; \$53 would be the state reimbursement at 12.5 percent for the flood damages or estimated flood damages that are under repair over the next probably 3 to 5 years. After looking at this, I think the recommendation by the fiscal staff was \$46 million, so we did reduce it to \$46. But beware that these are estimates, it comes over a period of time. The state Legislature will stand behind the state in terms of reimbursing for flood damages. 9.2 is really about 10 counties that were highly impacted by the flood. That allocation will go out as aid to those counties. We stand again as-- as we move forward in this process, certainly behind the devastation created by the flood. There were recommendations by DHHS to a \$5 million deficit request, along with another \$5 million or a \$10 million ask relative to utilizing staffing agencies for Lincoln as well as Norfolk. Lots of problems with trying to find staff. So this is a solution to fill some vacancies. Revenue made a request to increase the allocation for the Homestead Exemption Act, 4.1 deficit request, \$5 million the next year or \$9.1 million. DHHS also requested lead-- \$8.8 million for staffing and repairs of the Lincoln Regional Center. This came under review and these repairs have to be done. They're-- they are ligature-- ligature mitigations. And if we don't, we, we potentially could lose the reimbursements that we now get from the federal government on Medicaid. The Governor included the Corrections pay increase. He was able to renegotiate the Corrections,

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the union contract with Protective Services. The increases deficit spend of 2.3 this year and 3-- or 5.7 or \$8 million allocation. Hopefully we have now brought the salaries up to be competitive to fill some of the vacancies. DHHS also asked for \$4.9 million to complete their ICAP assessments and DD waivers. Along with that, the DD waiver priority number-- number one priority needed \$3.6 almost \$3.7 million to be added to their appropriations. And of course, the Governor included an initiative called H3, which provided Nebraska career scholarships, funding for the University of Nebraska, \$2 million to start, \$1 million to state colleges, and \$1 million to community colleges for that H3 type of individual that we need to attract and continue to attract and retain in our state. DAS, from the construction side, wanted to accelerate \$3.5 million, not increase or cost overrun, I want to make sure you understand that 3.5 is the amount that we're increasing the appropriations for the HVAC project in next year. They think they're going to need it as we advance forward. The total amount has not changed. I want to make that clear. They also requested on a deficit spend a \$1.7 million to fix our capitol dome. I think you've seen some of that progress being made as we speak. And Corrections did come with a recommendation to-- for \$468,000 deficit spend and \$524 to engage Peru State into a-- assisting with the education of supervisors. I will say this, that also child welfare was-- was included as a reduction in appropriations, \$6 million in the-- in the current year, 2.7 or \$33 million reduction due to the signing of a new contract with St. Francis. And then there was a realignment by DHHS for \$8.6 million, an \$8.6 million current year, \$17.2 million. Now, I do want to point out to-- to the Legislature that we did things, we, meaning the Appropriations Committee, did things just a little different than the Governor. Mostly of it is embedded in the cash reserve. If you look at the request by the Governor, he included one-time expenditures, namely the Governor's emergency fund relief of \$53 million, 9.2 for one-time spends on emergency for the county costs. And \$3.8 million was allocated for critical infrastructure cash fund. Additionally, he put into the cash reserve as a reduction of cash reserve, the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund. We have that in the General Funds, moved it down to the one-time spends in the cash reserve. His projected cash reserve was \$506 million. He did not have the benefit of the Forecasting Board increasing 114, so adjustment wise, to be fair, he would have been probably right in that 620 area, \$620 million. We opted as a committee to put everything in General Funds, and I will

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

get to the reasoning behind that here very shortly. With that, I would ask that we could move to the committee amendment.

FOLEY: Please proceed to the committee amendment.

STINNER: Thank you. As we-- as we came in in January, there was really four objectives or priorities that we set as a committee. Certainly the restoration of the cash reserve fund was high on my list, as well as the committee's list, trying to restore this rainy day fund. And if you remember, we left the Legislature with \$322 million in the rainy day fund. It now is projected to go to \$731 million. A lot of that has to do with actual receipts received in the prior biennium, 8.7 percent over and above what the certified budget is. We're running at a projected amount of 5.2 percent compared to approximately 3 percent increase. So that differential of \$276 million will also go into the rainy day fund. So that was-- that was helpful. We'll see how this all unfolds. I think we have to stay somewhat cautious given the current coronavirus situation. The other priorities that we had, I wanted to maintain, along with the committee wanted to maintain a 3 percent spend level. We left the Legislature with 3 percent, did not want to increase that over and above 3 percent. So you'll see that our recommendations, at least on the financial status right now, show a 3 percent increase, which is consistent with prior years. The third item that was a priority was structural balance. Structural balance, by definition, is ongoing revenues equal to ongoing expenditures. Think about your checkbook. The deposits have to equal-- the expenditures have to equal the deposits, otherwise you start to spend that down. Right now, if you looked at the fiscal status, the financial status of the-- of our proposal, there is \$155 million positive to the structural balance. So we did achieve that as well. And the fourth, and probably most important one to everybody in this body, was to leave enough money for property tax relief. We are-- we do not have the property tax relief bill in our budget. I know that the Governor overlaid what he would recommend in his budget. But thirty-- \$133.8 million is what the committee is bringing to the floor in financial status for A bills. There was 35 bills that were presented to the Appropriations Committee this year. That total was \$118 million of the request. On page four, I believe, of your booklet, there's 19 bills that we actually incorporated. That total of the cost is pared down to \$15 million. I will say that there was three major themes within what we did with the bills. First one theme was prison overcrowding, work force development and work force housing was number two, and aid to individuals was number three. So under were-- under the prison

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

overcrowding, there are several bills. One of those bills is problem-solving courts, mental health court for \$637,000. And the other one is for juvenile courts, additional juvenile court in-- in youth court in Omaha, Nebraska. I will tell you that the mental health \$637 includes additional funds to evaluate it. It's a relatively new concept. So we want to continue to evaluate it as we move forward to make sure that we can assess whether it's working or not. Vocational skills program is an-- an apprenticeship program. The bill was introduced by Senator McDonnell. It's a matching with funds. So anybody coming out of prison, anybody in prison today that will be getting out, anybody that's been 18 months out of prison can join this apprenticeship program and get a job and get some training. So that should help the re-offend-- re-offensive side of things. We did put money in for sexual assault forensic kits, \$250,000. And \$250,000 for child advocacy, that does a great job. They've seen about a 50 percent increase in cases that they have to work. Under work force, we include in there, and it's in the transfer section, \$10 million one-time spend for rural housing. This-- this, if you remember back, was a \$7 million spend by-- by us in the past biennium. That has created about \$80 million in jobs with the flood, with the oversubscription of the first, we had over \$20 million of applications. We felt this was one of the ways to step forward to provide housing for this work force that's badly needed in rural Nebraska. We also included community colleges, dual enrollment and opportunity grants to help with getting that work force from high school through college, from high school to the work force, from high school through community college. It speeds that whole process up. We think those are programs that certainly, like under the opportunity grants, I think we're at 34 or 36 percent. Hopefully this million dollar allocation will bring them up to about a 50 percent number. We included language for \$150,000 automatic transfer from the Attorney General's account for legal education, rural loan assistance program. That is in the budget. \$500,000 is the transfer on water-- Daugherty Water for-- for food initiative. And of course, we allocated \$230,000 for developmental districts so they can help with the flooding, they can help with businesses, they can help do what they can do to stimulate job growth in rural America. Aid to individuals was one of our priorities coming in as well, and I should have probably mentioned it. We had two cost studies. We've funded about half of it. One was DD. The cost studies were performed by DHHS and they went out and did an outstanding job of looking at what the costs were to deliver these types of services, what we were reimbursing. And we found out that we were actually fairly short. I

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

will say that the first one, behavioral health, got us close to that break even. Not quite there. I think Senator Bolz will talk about that. Also on the behavioral health, there is language in there giving the director of DHHS the opportunity to-- to take some excess Medicaid funds and help behavioral health in terms of they're transitioning their customer base to Medicaid expansion and some of the anticipated revenue shortfall. DD, we fully funded that cost study of \$3.7 million. Public health, we put \$1.5 million in public health. Their request was 6.5, this is one where we got to stay a little bit loose because all the things that are happening in the coronavirus. You may see us actually offering some amendments either to the budget or to the trailer bill for the budget to-- to adjust either emergency funds for the Governor and/our public funds, \$6.5 million based on what they're talking about, is the number that's kind of shovel--, shovel-ready, is what they're-- they're projecting to us. So this may be an additional emergency request. Fairly qualified health care clinics we allocated \$500,000 to. We think they, too, could be at the epicenter of some of the things that would-- are happening today. We did allocate \$250,000 for EMTs. This is to reimburse them in their educational costs. These are volunteer EMTs. And competency restoration, we put \$300,000 in to try to get additional people help earlier so that they don't have to work-- wait 60, 90, and sometimes even longer for their mental-- medical help. Language is also embedded in this amendment for nursing homes. What we did was break out the nursing homes as a line item so we can follow it. The language that we're trying to do is, if there is a carryover of appropriations, that carryover will be applied as increase in rates. We're still below break-even on rates by-- somewhere between \$25 and \$30. So as long as we're below that and there's excess funds, we would like those to be allocated. So in closing, I want to thank the Legislature.

FOLEY: One minute.

STINNER: This has been a tough three years. Thank you. This has been a tough three years. And I think if you look back, I believe we only passed one, one fiscal note, and that was for a judge in Omaha, over the last three years. So there's a lot of pent-up demand. There's a lot of areas that we really kind of need to look at. I think we tried to cover those areas as best we could with the limited amount of dollars. But we did accomplish the four objectives that we started out with. I think we have a good budget. Our rainy day fund sits at about 13.4 percent. Fully funded, it would be \$828 million. So our fiscal posture for our state, I think, is strong. Obviously with the

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Floor Debate March 12, 2020

coronavirus it needs to be strong, and we'll see just how we proceed over the next couple of months in addressing that. But I know this Legislature, along with the government-- Governor, stands behind helping the people in the state of Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Stinner. Before proceeding, Senator Geist would like us to recognize Dr. Dale Michels of Walton, Nebraska, who is serving us today as family physician of the day. Dr. Michels is with us under the north balcony. Doctor, please rise so we can thank you for being here today. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, an amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Stinner. I have AM2911.

FOLEY: Senator Stinner, you're recognized to open on AM2911.

STINNER: Yeah. This amendment has two minor corrective changes to the committee amendment, LB1008. Neither has any fiscal impact. The first one per strikes the word "equally" on page 7, line 26. This relates to the distribution of additional public health aid, and this word in the opening sentence conflicts with the actual distribution language in line 29, which distributes the aids proportionately. The second is an increase in salary limits for the Department of Education in fiscal year '19 to '20, which has been approved but inadvertently was admitted from the original amendment. I would ask your green vote on AM2911. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Stinner. Debate is now open on LB1008 and the pending amendments. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to rise and reiterate a few things that Senator Stinner shared, as well as preemptively answer a few questions that have already come to me over the past couple of days related to the budget, and try to answer them for the floor as a whole. So the first thing I want to reiterate is our thanks to the Fiscal Office. I'll-- I'll say that, especially from this senator who had a lot to learn over her eight years on Appropriations. Thank you for your expertise and your patience with me. A particular thanks to Mike Lovelace, who explained the variable gas tax to me more times than I can count. So I appreciate everyone in the Fiscal Office. I wanted to reiterate a few things that Senator Stinner said and provide a little bit of additional color commentary to clarify a few of the things that he didn't have a chance to get to, as well as answer a few

questions. So to-- to reinforce what Senator Stinner shared, this budget prioritizes fiscal responsibility, emergency response. It deals with unfinished business, it takes care of some new responsibilities, and it addresses a couple of new priorities, including economic development and corrections reform. So first, fiscal responsibility. I think it's important to reiterate that our cash reserve is strong. We're at 14 percent for fiscal years '20-21. That's pretty good. We aspire to about 16 percent in the cash reserve, so we're in really healthy shape for where we're at in-- in this fiscal year. As Senator Stinner said, we're keeping spending at 3 percent and we've left \$133 million for the floor for a variety of priorities that are on final reading as well as the body's shared priority of property tax relief. We did prioritize emergency response, including playing-- paying for emergency repair and response post flooding, related inspections for state, the State Electrical Board, and an important irrigation pipe replacement in the chairman's neck of the woods. I think we also in that money for the floor have room to discuss further responses for public health should that become more clear over the next week or so related to coronavirus. When I say we deal with unfinished business, I think that means proposals, ideas and requests that we would have liked to address last year that we weren't able to do or weren't able to fully fund. The two most important pieces of unfinished business, I think are the developmental disability proposals and the behavioral health proposals. Senator Ben Hansen referenced prioritizing the most vulnerable populations in the budget yesterday. I would like to-- to reassure the body that we have done that. There are three pieces of disability-related policy that I think are worth mentioning. One is the ICAP scores, in other words, the individual assessments that people go through on a biannual basis to assess their needs. Those had been a little bit out of date. The department deserves credit for updating those, and we've put the funding behind those needed adjustments. We've also made sure that people who are priority 1 status in developmental disabilities have the funds that they need. What that means is that people who might be facing an emergency situation, homelessness, a crisis, a loss of a caregiver, we make sure that those folks are funded. And then we've adjusted the rates to make them closer to the rates that were identified by the Department of Health and Human Services and approved by CMS last year. Behavioral health rates, as Senator Stinner referenced, we have not been able to fully fund the Division of Behavioral Health rate study, but what we

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

have been able to do is address the rates that were most disproportionate.

FOLEY: One minute.

BOLZ: So rates that were more than 15 percent off. We've taken care of new responsibilities related to the Regional Center, the area agency that-- for the aging, and Department of Corrections staff. And we've addressed work force challenges as well as Corrections reform. I'm running out of time, so I do want to-- want to mention that my next time on the mike, or if we do get questions, we're happy to provide clarifications related to some of the differences between our budget and the Governor's budget in the Military Department related to public assistance and related to child welfare. I'm confident that we've put appropriate resources into all three of those areas. We had some updated information in the Military Department. We always have-- keep an eye on public assistance, and this budget proposes funding that is closer to utilization, which I think is a good sign that we haven't seen a significant increase in utilization. And the last thing I'll say to-- to answer a question that's come to me, is that while we do take significant resources out of the Child Welfare Department--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

BOLZ: --that's in line with the contract and \$9 million under--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

BOLZ: --what was proposed. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bolz. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to support the budget that we have here today. This is my sixth year to be on the Appropriations Committee, and this in some ways was the easiest year we've had. We've always been cutting and trying to scrimp and where-- where we-- where can we get through that. And so sometimes when you have an excess, you sometimes are a little tempted, maybe, to spend more money than you really should be spending. And I think the committee was very judicious and very responsible for-- with having a few extra dollars that we had to work with this year. It was nice to have 35 bills that were introduced to us with different ideas from all of you, and that we had to hear. There were new requests for programs, there were certainly requests for adding money to some of the additional programs

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

that were out there. I really think that the committee listened to those requests and processed those well. I agreed with almost all of the decisions that we made, and I think that we used good discernment on those bills that were presented. Certainly some were funded at much lower numbers than what we're brought to us, but I think I was pleased overall with how our committee did that. It's very-- it's also when we're at the 2.9 to 3 percent where we are with an increase on the budget, I think that's also being very responsible. And I appreciate the members of the committee and certainly the leadership of Chair-- Chairman Stinner on-- on-- on coming together with a-- with a good solid budget that we can present for you here today. And it was neat to see our rainy day fund be able to replenish back into the \$775 million aspect. Certainly opens us up to some possibilities down the line, certainly with what's going on nationally and worldwide with the coronavirus. Who knows how when we have that-- if we go into a deep recession again, we'll be very glad that we have a rainy day fund to work with. So I support the-- the-- the measure and I would encourage all of you to get behind the budget bill as well. Ask those questions that you have of us. I think any one of us will-- will be able to respond to those and help you with the decisions that we had as a committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Hilkemann. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, President. I want to thank all my fellow Appropriations members, in particular our Chair, Senator Stinner, and our Vice Chair, Senator Bolz, for leading us through this. I've gotten to serve on this committee, along with a few others for the first three and a half years of my-- my time here, and it's been an absolute pleasure. And I can't say enough about our Fiscal Office. We-- we continue to have amazing expertise and knowledge. And I hope as we continue to bring in new people, new people have come in, we can continue to keep-- keep that torch, keep passing that torch. Couple of things I want to highlight here and just echoing a few things, and then providing a little more context on why I think this is a really, really great mid-biennium budget response. We prioritize emergency preparedness and response. We prioritize education in the realm of work force development. We looked at health specifically for vulnerable populations. We made sure we are addressing and reacting to the corrections, not only the salaries, but also some infrastructure. Economic development has come through, throughout many of this. You heard it through the rural work force housing, and housing is a-- is a recurring need that we're seeing both in urban and in rural Nebraska.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

And then we're also seeing this emphasis on shoring up our cash reserve. That was a recommendation coming out of the Legislative Planning Committee to make sure that we're continuing to make that strong. And then and also, I think there's two things that we do here. We focus on proven programs and a few new bright spots in innovations. By proven programs, we're investing in things that are currently working. We're investing in agencies or departments or programs that have been in existence for a while and providing them with increased capacity so that they can do more good work. So some examples of that, obviously, are like our problem solving courts. So thank you to Senator Geist for prioritizing this or bringing this to us, because that's something that we know has worked historically. We-- we've focused on this, the end of last year. Public health funding and FQHCs, I'll tell you one thing that I'm really happy about this committee, we brought forward some funding for public health. This was happening right at the beginning of what we were hearing around the coronavirus. The original request was much, much more. Some called it bold, \$6.5 million. And I, now I think what we're seeing is that is one step forward. We actually did \$1.5 million. There's still a question on whether or not there is more we can and should do. But I am happy that we took a small step in the right direction to fund our 18 public health departments equally for critical infrastructure. And I'm assuming at some point we're going to hear more from them. If you ever have questions, please reach out to your local public health departments. I'm gonna make sure to hand out the contact information so you can engage with them. I thank you for those of you that are putting out information from your local public health departments that is the most accurate, the most up-to-date, in addition to what we're receiving from DHHS. The other thing I want to be able to highlight is the Opportunity Grant Program. For those you that don't know a lot about this, we are 35th in the country for our need-based state aid that we award to people for postsecondary education, specifically low-income individuals. This is our only way to fund people to be able to go to postsecondary education, community to college, trade schools, four-year colleges. This is what our work force development is about, making sure people can afford and have some access. We're not where we need to be, but this is a step in the right direction. You heard it from Senator Stinner, from Chair Stinner, that we have about 35 percent of the current need being met. That's telling you we have 65 percent of individuals that qualify for this grant that do not get any funding. We have more work we need to do in this. But I am happy to say that we're going to be covering an additional, about at least a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

thousand more undergraduates going to some postsecondary education that wouldn't otherwise be able to afford it.

FOLEY: One minute.

VARGAS: The other thing I want to make sure to highlight is our federally qualified health centers. They are one avenue in our communities that are responding to our uninsured population. They have 50 percent of their population is uninsured. So as you can imagine, what's-- with what's happening right now with COVID, we need to make sure that there is some acute response for individuals that may not have coverage. And especially right now in the wake of we have not yet implemented Medicaid expansion. So I want to thank the committee members for that. And then just the last thing, just reiterating, I hope we continue to have a conversation on to Select and General. If there is more that we need to do in response to what the Governor puts together or recommends, public health is something that I can't tell you enough, they are receiving an un-- inundated with calls right now because they're our frontline defense. And in an area where population, and what we're hearing is that things can spread really easily, information is power. Knowledge is power. And if we can't make sure the right information, the right information to the right stakeholders and people in our community is happening--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

VARGAS: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Linehan. She waives the opportunity. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I rise today in strong support of AM2911 and the following amendments and bills. I, too, want to thank our Fiscal Office for their tireless work. We've got some new faces as well that have joined our team, and it's been great working with them this year. I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee. It's-- I've worked as a staff member in the Legislature for over 10 years, and I never knew a lot about Appropriations as a staffer. And it's one of the best committees to serve on. And I feel very lucky to get to serve with the members, especially with our bold and confident chair. So thank you, committee members. I'm really proud of this budget. I've been proud of the work that we've done collectively over the last three years, having to address significant

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

revenue shortfalls. One of the things I'm the most proud of is that we were able to look at about a million dollars in requests from this body and we were able to chisel that down to about \$15 million in-- in-- in bills that we prioritized. And we especially prioritized health care, which is very important to me, and access to health care, especially for some of our most vulnerable community members and the disability community and our aging community. And so I'm, again, I'm very proud of that. We've also increased, thank you to Senator Tony Vargas for being a leader and having the foresight to come to this Appropriations Committee asking for an increase in public health dollars and also dollars for federally qualified health centers. These are centers across our state that work with the most low-income community members in our state. And as we deal with this global pandemic, it is important that we provide the tools to all of our communities to be able to serve the public health of their constituents. And again, Senator Vargas had the foresight to come with these bills. And so we are able to address this public health crisis in a timely manner when we pass this budget. And I would agree with the chairman that between now and Select File, we will need to talk with public health departments and determine whether we need to increase even more of the funding to them so they can address this issue. I also want to thank Senator Geist and Senator McDonnell for their leadership on continuing to push us to increase funding for problem solving courts. Senator Geist brought a bill for us to establish mental health courts, which I think is going to start to help us address some of the issues where we are criminalizing what is really a public health issue in terms of mental health. So I'm excited about that as well. I'm also thrilled we were able to get a bill in that I introduced into the leg-- into the Appropriations Committee to increase funds for sexual evidence testing. We are grossly behind in this state. We have a year backlog of testing evidence for sexual assaults. And so this money would give additional dollars to the State Patrol to be able to work with counties and help us remove that year backlog. And just to give everybody who's hearing this some perspective, if somebody is sexually assaulted in this state, it could be up to a year before the evidence of their sexual assault is able to be processed and uploaded onto the national DNA website so that we can help law enforcement track serial perpetrators and rapists. And I think that is a huge failure in terms of public safety in our state. And so I'm glad that we're starting to address that within this budget.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FOLEY: One minute.

WISHART: I-- I'm probably going to have just a little bit more to say. But I think the thing I'm most proud of is that we've done all of this and we have also been able to bring our rainy day fund back over to \$700-plus million. We dealt with a huge deficit where we had to drain that fund. And within three years we have been able to put money back into that so that we can prepare Nebraska for when we do have another revenue downturn. I think that's a very fiscally responsible decision that this committee has made. And I'm-- I'm incredibly proud of that. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wishart. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. You talk about leadership, and you've got to understand a little bit about the-- the history of where we were in 2017. In 2017, as Appropriations, and as this Legislature, we faced a billion dollar problem. We had a billion dollar hole in the budget. You had Senator Stinner that was a new chair and Senator Bolz that was the new vice chair. You had Senator Hilkemann that was there with some experience. You had four of us walk in that had no experience. We were brand new to that-- that committee. Here we are looking at a budget now and the rainy day fund, for example, at \$731 million, 13.2 percent. Well, that was down to 33-- \$333 million, 6.8 percent. We had used the rainy day fund to help fill that hole, but we made some cuts, and it was not easy. You had 78 agencies coming in front of us and all of them doing good work. And we had to make those cuts. And we did. And we worked as a committee extremely hard. This is a good budget. No budget is ever going to be perfect. A number of you have come to me and asked questions about this budget, and of course, we get laser-focused. We sit in that room day after day, we're looking at the numbers and we're working with the Fiscal Office, and it becomes kind of routine to us. Today is the day for you to ask questions about our budget. You've done it privately. If you want to do it publicly, today's the day. But this is a solid budget. But one thing I do want to talk about is the future. And what are we going to do with the future of the process and how we go about, and how we educate ourselves and who we depend on? And who we depend on is the Fiscal Office. You had already heard that-- that Mike Lovelace is going to start his retirement life and spend a lot of days at the lake and enjoying himself. We have a number of people that have so much experience and so much institutional knowledge that are leaving. They're starting their retirement life,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

and that's what they should do. But we don't talk about, and this is something that I'm going to bring in in January to this floor, we don't talk about a contingency plan. We don't talk about how we are going to truly replace these people. And for someone for Mike who, using him as an example because he's going to be gone here in the next few months, for him to pass his knowledge to. Someone for him to train. We have to seriously look at this, because as a committee, we depend so much on them. This budget would not be on the floor without all of those people working hard every day, all of their experience. And next year, I am going to bring a bill that's going to address it. And I'm not just talking about the Fiscal Office, I'm talking about throughout this building. With term limits, we know that things are going to change quickly on this floor and there's going to be new people. And that was the will of the people of Nebraska to set term limits. Well, we need to adjust to that and make sure that we are getting people in the offices, working in this building, especially the Fiscal Office, that are preparing the new senators for the future and not lose that institutional knowledge. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator McDonnell. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Good morning, colleagues. I would also like to thank the Fiscal Office for all of their extraordinarily hard and diligent work on the budget, biennium budget, and all of their diligent work on all of our fiscal notes. I would like to ask if Senator Stinner would yield to a question.

FOLEY: Senator Stinner, would you yield, please?

STINNER: Yes, I will.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Senator Stinner. On page 16, we have the significant reductions. And you-- you have spoke about this in your opening, that DHHS, welfare savings, and the new eastern service area contract, so there's a \$6 million deficit there. And I've expressed concern before that we've cut a contract that serves the same number of children in half, so significantly is there a reserve that will be util-- we could utilize if it turns out that that is, that--

STINNER: Yeah, we had a discussion in-- in Appropriations, and I can check the numbers again. My recollection is we left about \$9 million, which was the differential between what St. Francis initially put it in and what they may have to adjust the contract to. I think that,

that is in-- in the appropriations, I can double-check that. But that was my recollection from the conversation that we had, that there was a \$9 million appropriation that-- that could be utilized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. It's good to know that we have accounted for that contingency. It-- it is a concern. I did want to just take a moment to speak about some concerns I have around the coronavirus pandemic that we are faced with. I would say that today we are at the place where we were last year when the temperatures just got really warm and the snow and ice just started to begin to melt quickly. We don't know what's ahead, but we know it's not good. And I'm very concerned that we have 90,000 uninsured Nebraskans because we haven't implemented Medicaid expansion. I'm concerned that we are not moving nimbly enough as a state to make preparations. We have the concern about schools closing. We have children that have respite care needs, that they get that through the school system. And if our schools close and we don't have enough in-home care to address that because we haven't licensed them, how are we going to do that? How are we going to keep those kids that normally can have their conditions managed through the school systems, through the respite care that they receive, how are we going to keep them out of the hospital and off respirators? Because right now there isn't a plan. The department is telling organizations that they can apply for that in-home license and it will take six months. So we have OPS closing next week, everybody. And we've got kids there that need respite care and they're not going to get it. So they're going to go to the hospital, they're going to be hospitalized. And we're going to lose respirators in the hospital because we can't get in-home respite care. This is a crisis. This is a crisis. And I'm very concerned about vulnerable children in this crisis. And I'm very concerned about our vulnerable population because we don't have Medicaid expansion. So we've got people with underlying health issues that aren't going to the doctor and they're going to be taking up beds as well, because they're going to get this respiratory infection and they're going to be at the hospital. Because they don't have health insurance, so they're not going to see their doctors and they're not taking care of their underlying health problems. So our rainy day fund, that's fantastic. Our fund for property tax relief is very quickly going to become our-- our fund. Both of those are going to become our fund for taking care of the citizens of Nebraska.

FOLEY: One minute.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. This is a crisis. And I hope that we can take the remainder of time we have. I don't know how many hours or days we're going to be in this building together, but we need to be figuring out how we can be more nimble and how we can address this-- this crisis. Thank you, I'll yield the remainder of my time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to add a few additional items in terms of the budget. The main thing I wanted to talk a little bit more about is our Department of Corrections, and specifically our correctional officers. As I said yesterday, since I represent four of the correctional facilities in the state, I tend to have quite a few correctional officers that live in the district. And quite frequently email back and forth with them about what's going on in the Department of Corrections. And while I am again proud of the work that the Fraternal Order of Police has done with the Governor and-- and department in terms of negotiations around correction officer salaries, I really want to push all entities, and I know the FOP is working on this, to continue to look at increases for correctional officers' salaries in addressing the overtime issue. We're definitely not done with this issue. What we're doing this year is good, but it's not enough. The one other issue I wanted to bring up, and this has just been brought to my attention and it's something as a Legislature and the department we will need to address. While we are funding additional salary increases for correctional officers that fall under the Union of the Fraternal Order of Police, there are a certain group of people within the Department of Corrections supervisors who, because they were not part of that negotiation, it is my understanding that they are not seeing raises. And this is concerning to me because this means we have supervisors within the Department of Corrections who are sometimes getting less pay than newly hired staff who are working under those supervisors. And that's a-- that's a concern to me, not only because, again, we need to be supporting all staff members that work within Corrections, but it's also a concern to me in terms of fairness. So that is something I think as a Legislature and I'm urging the department as well to-- to look and try to address. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wishart. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Thank you. Similarly to Senator Wishart, I just wanted to follow up on a few things I didn't get to finish. Federally qualified

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

health centers, as I mentioned, serve a really high, high underserved population and specifically a large uninsured population. And I want to make sure, or we want to make sure as a committee, that we are pushing forward some funding, knowing that there is going to be some additional need. There also is a one-pager on your desk about the Nebraska Opportunity Grants. I'd love for people to make sure they're informed about this program. It is an important program. Something that is, I think, interesting about this program. Again, it's very underfunded. And we have been slowly pushing the needle to make sure it is more closer to even close to 50 percent funded. This is a grant that goes to, follows-- goes to the higher education institutions or postsecondary institutions. It's both public and private institutions. So schools like Creighton and equally schools like University of Nebraska system are providing these grants to low-income individuals all across the state and making it part of their financial aid packages. Improving this is addressing work force needs. And so I wanted to make sure to call that out. I also want to make one update from Senator Cavanaugh that she shared with me, and is just clarifying that OPS schools will not be closing next week. OPS schools are preparing for closing, so just a little bit of a clarification. And the last piece of information I wanted to make sure to highlight here is on the handout I provided with the public health departments. Without making and taking a stance and informing and that I'm a doctor, a public health professional, I truly encourage everybody to then be directly connected and talk to their public health local agency head. There is a 1-- 3 pages stapled and you'll see it looks like this. It includes a picture of every single one of your public health department heads. If you've been in contact with them, thank you. If you have not, my ask is that you are, so that we are funneling information and it is up-to-date with the right people in our own communities. I do want to give a special shout out to Senator Walz, because what I've seen her do both in-- in her social media is highlight what her public health department is putting out. So the exact same information is being funneled, which is what I think we need. Both DHHS information and our local health departments is going to be really critical during this time so that we are as lined and funneling it to the appropriate local and state programs as possible. So I want to thank everybody. I believe this is a really great biennium budget, and thank the committee members and thank our leadership, Senator Stinner and Senator Bolz, for making sure that we are moving forward. Thank you.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Thank you, Mr President, colleagues. Senator Wishart just made some remarks that I want to reiterate. If you were not listening carefully, we provided pay raises after additional negotiation between the administration and the FOP. Left behind were some of the supervisors who were-- were dealing with, or the Department of Corrections is dealing with, something that they refer to as wage compression. And the consequence is that some of the supervisors are now making less than those FOP members who were just given a raise. And we're going to start seeing people leave those supervisory roles for their old jobs just because they can make more and they don't have to deal with the-- the problems attendant with being a supervisor. That's something that we absolutely have to address. I've gotten emails, a good number of emails on it since the pay raise came out for the FOP members. Just putting you on notice, that's something that we absolutely have to deal with. It is completely unfair. We do have wage issues. I'm not clear on whether or not that taking the FOP up to \$20 an hour has been effective. I know that the Inspector General requested information from the department to determine whether we're filling those vacancies. They had never responded. I then said, would you respond to the Inspector General? And they responded, we're busy. I got to tell you, if you want to know why you don't have a plan that-- that incorporated community corrections yesterday, part of the difficulty we're having is getting them to communicate with us so that we have adequate information to make policy in here. And I don't think it's an accident that we can't get vacancies and some information from the department before we get to the budget and while we're still in session to address whether or not that pay raise has solved or appears to be solving the problem with the staffing issues at the Department of Corrections. And to tell me, to respond to me and tell me, we're busy, doesn't work. This is a couple of keystrokes or should be a couple of keystrokes over in some computer at the department so that I can be informed and share with you whether or not these pay raises that we're incorporating into the budget this morning have been effective to solve the staffing issues. Otherwise, we're going to leave and-- and we will remain on 24, these emergencies at the Pen and at Tecumseh. We got to have a better relationship between the policy makers and the director. With that, I would encourage your support of the amendments in the bill.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Lathrop. Senator Dorn.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

DORN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, colleagues. Welcome, and thank you for taking the time to have the discussion on the budget. One of the most important things we do as a legislative body is passing the budget, and I think it deserves the time and the discussion to have here. I also, like other members of Appropriations Committee, really want to thank the rest of the committee. Chairman Stinner, our leadership, and Chairman Bolz, as they helped formulate the budget. It has been, I think, a very good process this year again. And if you do look, and if you do look at the committee statement, this did come out 9-0. So we had all nine committee members did support this budget. I likewise wanted to thank our Fiscal Office. The people over there have been fantastic to work with. Fantastic when you have questions, or explaining some of the issues as they come forward. Some of the differences or some of the aspects that we look at and really going and dwelling on the issues so that we can make a good decision. Some of the other-- a lot of things have been brought up here this morning about the funding in the budget, but I wanted to make sure people also looked at page 18 and 19. TEEOSA funding and our school funding and the amount of money that we as a state right now do, that we do allocate to the schools. And part of what this budget does, or this, these two pages explain, is how and why there are some decreases in-- not some decreases, some pullback in some funding that was going to be allocated out to for TEEOSA. And then explains how some of the increase in valuations and what they do to our TEEOSA formula. I think that's very important for people to look at as we go forward and we have the discussion on property taxes or-- or things like that. Because of increase in valuations the last couple years and because of the four-- the original projections came out in October. They were recert-- they were actually certified in December. Some of the original dollar amounts showed that we were going to allocate more to TEEOSA funding, and then some of those have been pulled back in. I think that's important that people look at that and understand that. Along with that in the education, we did some things this year that I thought we should have maybe done last year, we didn't do as an Appropriations Committee or as a state, and that was fund some of these scholarship programs. Last year, one of the themes was work force and work force development and brain drain going out of the state. This year, the Governor came forth with a proposal. We did include that proposal in here. So that we do have scholarships for our community colleges, for our state colleges, for our university. And then Senator Vargas has talked quite a bit this morning on the opportunity grant. We also increased that by a million dollars, that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

opportunity grant, so that students in need now will have the opportunity. And the one other thing we did in here, and I forget the dollar amount. A lot of the high schools now are having courses through the community college, and we included some funding in here to help with the cost of that so that students in high school can now also take part in some of those so-called college courses early on and help them become part of our work force. The one other thing we did, we did with work force development, rural work force development, was we did include \$10 million in here for rural work force housing again. I think that's very important as we go forward that we do have a strong work force here in the state of Nebraska. There were a lot of things, a lot of issues this year, again. A lot of the Appropriations Committee members have talked about--

FOLEY: One minute.

DORN: --the public health and all of those different areas and those agencies. Senator Wishart talked about her testing for the kits or whatever. We didn't have a lot of tense moments in Appropriations this year. We did, however, though, I will say the most tense moment we had this year was when we had the discussion on that and it looked like it might not go through. Senator Wishart, I think she explained to the rest of the committee how important that was to have that bill in the Appropriations and I want to thank her for doing a fantastic job on that. We had a good discussion on it and we did include that, which I think is very important, in this budget bill. So with that, I will yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Dorn. Before proceeding, Senator McCollister would like to recognize a special guest today. We have the ASSE Exchange Student Program, which includes some students from the nations of Georgia, Poland, and Spain, Miranda [PHONETIC], Marissa [PHONETIC], and Blanca [PHONETIC], as well as Boy Scout Michael Madsen [PHONETIC]. Those guests are all with us in the north balcony. Students, could you please rise so we can welcome you to the Nebraska Legislature. Continuing discussion, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. President. I won't spend a lot of time talking on this first amendment or the second amendment, but I do want to mention that our first year I heard a lot that our budget is not supposed to deal with policy. But over the four years, I believe that our budget is our policy statement for the state. So every, every line in there deals with policy and deals with the value

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

of education, the value of vulnerable people, and actually outlines a clear picture of how we as a state set our priorities, because we actually put dollars behind the priorities we believe that our state should value. This budget is good overall, but there are some fundamental issues that will not allow me to go forward with this budget. I have expressed my concerns to Speaker Scheer. I just started looking at the budget last night. I do have some amendments drafted, that are being drafted, that could possibly take us the distance, not necessarily today. I'm waiting to see more about the conversation and see if some of my concerns are addressed, so I will just be sitting and listening. But I think this budget also does three things for me. This budget places rural over urban and increases the urban and rural divide that I think we have to deal with, which looks no farther than what happened on this body with Senator Vargas's bill. Yet we have a budget that allows \$10 more million to go to rural work force housing development when two years ago, we put \$8 million into rural work force housing development. And yet we can look at extremely blighted, we can look at those things that have been passed on this floor but there has never been, since I've been here, a direct appropriation to do affordable housing in urban areas. Second, the bill-- or this budget says that the recruitment and retention of high test takers are more important than those who come from oftentimes poverty backgrounds or who do not take tests well. And that's the difference between the Nebraska DED grants and career grants versus the Opportunity Scholarships. Opportunity Scholarships are Nebraska kids based off of, typically, Pell grants. We put \$4 million in one and \$1 million in the other. I have a fundamental problem with that. As we all know, standardized tests are racially biased, so we are exaggerating the problem and creating a bigger problem, I believe. Third, this bill, or this budget places 55,000 acres of land at a tune of \$3.8 million, I think over many of our cities and towns such as West Point, who do not have drinking water. We will fund farmers to make sure they have to fix a canal but Middle Loup Public Power and Irrigation, which you'll never hear me talk positive hardly about public power, but they had a lot of canal damage, bridge damage, and infrastructure damage that they may or may not get FEMA dollars for. West Point has not had drinking water for a year. Peru has a temporary drinking water station. How do we justify one over the other, and more importantly, those places I mentioned are in our state, whereas the other one is outside of our state that simply feeds our state water. There's also \$120,000 for a trail.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FOLEY: One minute.

WAYNE: I like trails, but I think people who need drinking water should have that. So those are a couple of the items that I'm very concerned with. I'm very concerned with money being transferred to the property tax relief fund when-- when I asked school administrators last week if that's an acceptable thing and if it's equitable, every one of them shook their head and said, it's not equitable. But yet we are going to increase that again when every large school district told me that wasn't equitable in a meeting that I was at last-- last Friday. So we may have our budget crunch time that we need to get some things done, but that does not allow me to ignore what my community needs when we're funding other people's communities and work force housing and a-- and literally a canal not in Nebraska. So not to put a damper on the celebration of the budget, but I will listen and I will hear. But I do have a pack of amendments that we will vote up and down on that I believe--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

WAYNE: --is necessary for our state. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Good morning, Nebraska. Good morning, colleagues. I want to speak on one issue. Senator Bolz and I have talked on the-- off the mike on this a little bit, but I want to draw your attention to the-- it was LB1206, I believe it is, half a million dollars out of the Water Sustainability Fund. A little bit to what Senator Wayne is talking about, perhaps, is what I want to talk about. So the Water Sustainability Fund has \$11 million in it, and it accrues interest over time. Right now, we don't have a process in statute how to use that interest on those dollars. So Water Sustainability Fund, so it's kind of up for grabs, if you will, in a sense. So the Water Sustainability Fund is a source of financial support to help local project sponsors achieve the goals set out in Nebraska statutes. There is a process which that goes through. There's a fund project which goes through that you ask for grant funds or other funding which capped at \$11 million. So this goes out to towns, I can find it here, to Lincoln, Omaha, to the NRDs. It goes to smaller cities and towns for water projects and/or other projects they may have. There's large projects, as well as small projects under \$250,000. But what's happening is, is \$500,000 of that interest is being taken. And I-- I'm

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

here to raise the question is, since we've gone through this flooding, we have as Senator Wayne just said, we have cities out there that have no water supplies. They have no ways of water treatment facilities. That fund, that money now, that interest money that's out there that could be used perhaps for those specific projects, is now going to be used by the university under a program, which is a good program under the global water resource-- sorry, it's under the Global Institute, the Daugherty-- the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, which does great work. But what I'm saying, what I'm talking about today is, we have funds interests sitting on that Water Sustainability Fund that really could be used now to help citizens, help our towns, help people in Nebraska throughout the state in a different way. So probably what should have happened, this is a fund we should have looked at differently before we got to the budget by others, to see if we couldn't use those funds to divert those funds or use those funds to help out these cities across the state that need it. So specifically, what we're talking about is on, in AM2738, I think it's on page 5, lines 1 through 10, or 1 through 15 maybe, that process in there. And again, it's not-- I'm not saying that the-- it's not, the Daugherty-- the Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute isn't, it isn't a good program that the University uses. But we're using state tax dollars now to fund this-- fund, put \$500,000 into the institute, where we could use those tax dollars in a different way to actually go out and help those who have been significantly affected by the floods as they're getting their engineering reports, as they're getting the studies done they need for those funds. In a year or two, those funds could really be used to make an impact in those areas. So I just draw caution, I guess, in that one, in this area, this portion of the budget, that half a million dollars. Is that-- are those funds being spent or being used in that area that we really need to be doing? Should we send it or should we be sending it to water quality issues, other issues that we use in the state for grants that can be given by the Water Sustainability Fund? Or maybe it's another area that we should be using those funds in to take care of infrastructure or other areas--

FOLEY: One minute.

BOSTELMAN: --that our cities and our counties really need right now. Maybe it's a pause on the half million dollars this year. So we have some opportunity to take care of some of those other areas and then we look at it again at that point in time. So with that, I just ask you to think about that on-- on that portion of the budget, that half a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

million dollars. I'm not really sure that that's something that we should be doing. Not this year. I think that's something that we should be using that interest to actually go out and help cities, counties, and that with their water projects, with quality of water, the needs they have right now. I think that would be a better place to use it right now, because we just went through this flood and there is a huge need out there in our state. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bostelman. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Colleagues, I want to add some further clarification on Omaha Public Schools' district.ops.org. They have some great resources for families in the district. They are monitoring national and international developments related to the COVID-19 and they are in contact with local health and experts. I apologize for indicating that they were closing. They are-- what they are doing is preparing and being very proactive and doing their due diligence to ensure that every child and family within the school district has as much access to resources as possible during this crisis. I hope that all of our other school districts and agencies are-- are doing as much due diligence as Omaha Public Schools are doing. They're really a model for how we should be handling this crisis. And I am so grateful to the leadership of Superintendent Logan. She-- we're, we're very lucky to have her in Omaha. I do want to take a moment to reiterate my concern about Medicaid expansion. And also, I spoke yesterday about concern over hourly employees who don't have paid sick leave showing up to work because we don't have paid FMLA here in Nebraska. Those are the same people that they're in the work force, they're on the front lines, they're food service, they're healthcare workers, they don't have health insurance because we don't have Medicaid expansion. And we're all interacting with them every single day, yet we're not taking care of them. And they are going to be in crisis and we are going to be in crisis. So I just would really encourage the Department of Health and Human Services to move forward with immediate implementation of Medicaid expansion. We do not have to wait to do the 1115 waiver. Our state plan amendment has been approved by the federal government. We can begin moving forward with this immediately. There is nothing stopping us except for ourselves. I also would encourage this body to take another look at Senator Crawford's bill that offers paid family medical leave for employees and for us to start thinking creatively about how we can address in lieu of Senator Crawford's bill, how we can creatively address this concern about people showing up to work, what kind of emergency steps can we take to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

make sure that people stay home if they need to stay home, self-quarantine if they need to self-quarantine, and not lose those wages. And I'll yield the remainder of my time to the chair. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I wanted to address two of-- two of the things that have come up on the floor from-- from my friends and colleagues, Senator Bostelman and Senator Wayne. First, I did want to clarify some of the comments that Senator Bostelman-- or some of the observations that Senator Bostelman shared about the priority needs related to flooding and water quality. Colleagues, I truly believe that the Daugherty Water for Food Institute is-- is complementary to those projects and needs. Perhaps even essential to helping us make good decisions. So one of the-- the people who testified on the bill, Peter McCormick, I'm gonna share a little bit of his testimony. He reflects: Improvement of water and soil quality is essential. Safe, clean water is important to all Nebraskans, from irrigation to the water pouring from faucets and households and businesses across the state. The Daugherty Institute is working to better assess water quality conditions and reduce potential for contamination, including the adoption of best agricultural and management practices. He goes on to say that groundwater management to ensure that the quality and quantity of our natural resources will sustain community, agricultural, and natural resource systems for future generations is an essential part of the mission of the Daugherty Water for Food Institute. He later explains one of the specific projects that they work on, including the Know Your Water pro-- program, which helps people in communities to analyze unregulated wells, private wells. So what I'm expressing here is that this effort is quite complementary to some of the emergency responses that we need to protect our water-- water quality and quantity. And I think is a-- a smart investment of just a small portion of the investment income from the Water for Food Institute, and does not take away from the overall allocation for the Water Sustainability Fund. So I appreciate Senator Bostelman's concern about these important priorities, areas, and issues, but would say that they are complementary to one another, and I fully support moving forward with this budget. I also want to share a few reflections on Senator Wayne's observations. One of the things that I think is-- is wonderful about the Appropriations Committee and the budget process is that we are required to have three members each from each of the three caucuses. And that's intended to make sure that each of those

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

geographical interests are represented and that we have balance in our budget setting. And so I appreciate the debate and the dialogue about the rural work force housing investment. I think it's a smart strategy, I support its funding in the budget. But I don't think that we have a rural-urban divide or dichotomy in this budget. I think the majority of what this budget does is lift up the state as a whole. What do I mean by that? You know, while I appreciate that \$3.4 million is going to a specific project in the western part of the state, we're also spending 2-- \$9.2 million in counties affected by the flooding on the eastern part of the state that are trying not to overspend their property tax dollars or put undue burden on those counties. And so I think we are responding in a measured and balanced way. I would also say that everything from problem-solving courts to our response for the Area Agencies on Aging, to our response to the folks who need homelessness assistance, those are statewide initiatives and networks. And so making sure that we're funding programs in Senator Stinner's district as well as Senator Bolz's district, is a part of our approach to budget setting and I think we've done that admirably. So I look forward to seeing the amendments that Senator Wayne referenced--

FOLEY: One minute.

BOLZ: --but I will say I think it's a statewide budget. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Bolz. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. I agree that the-- excuse me, the Appropriations Committee has done a lot of the work, and I appreciate that, it's tough. I do have-- I filed an amendment and I'm hoping we're gonna get to it. But I just wanted, so time ticking away here, I wanted to make sure that I pointed out some things. On the Governor's budget, if you remember way back when, seems longer ago than it was, for '20-21, he had a line item for new property tax relief, which we are trying to get to, for \$140 million. In '21-22 he budgeted \$175 million, and '22-23 he budgeted \$205 million, which is a total of \$520 million over 3 years, which we have been talking about since we got here in January. So I understand from being at the briefing yesterday morning that there is money in this approp-- in the bill to cover these costs. So I hope-- I just want to go on the record that that is my understanding. The other thing I want to talk about, Senator Dorn mentioned this, and I do think it needs to be echoed. If you go to page 3 of your green book

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

here and you look at the top where there savings, education, TEEOSA aid, it's near the bottom of the top third of the page, education TEEOSA aid to Nebraska Department of Ed calculated per law. There-- there is a \$20,300,000 savings for us. But the reason there's a savings for us is because property taxes are going to go up. Mostly they're going to go up. Lincoln loses \$20 million in state aid next year because their valuation increases. OPS is almost \$9 million in state aid because of their valuation increases. So don't-- this isn't like nobody is going to spend this money, it's just now going to be shifted back onto the property taxpayers. I also-- I don't know how many of you read the editorials in both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Omaha World-Herald, but I want to share with you that over the last two months, I and many members on the Revenue Committee, the Speaker, and others in this body have met with multiple schools. I'm not sure the exact number, but it's, it's a lot of them. And we have met multiple times with their associations. And last Friday morning, as Senator Wayne spoke to earlier today, we had a meeting with 12 of the GNSA schools. That was seven days ago, we ended that meeting about 11:00 last Friday. Senator Speaker Scheer was there, Senator Wayne was there, Senator Lathrop was there, I was there, Senator Friesen came for a little bit, and we asked all those schools, bring us an idea. What can we do to move this forward? I have not heard from any of them. The Revenue Committee is not the one not trying to negotiate here. We need some help besides no, no, no, no, no, no, no, and that is what we're getting from the larger schools. Another issue I'd like to address is, I think the pages are handing this sheet out now, hopefully you have it on your desk. A couple of weeks ago, I asked the Fiscal Office, and they were, as we've noted this morning, very helpful, if we would go back to 1990-91 on what state funded TEEOSA and inflate that by 2.5 percent, what it would be today. So you have this in front of you. If we would inflate what we started at '90-91 by 2.5 percent, TEEOSA would now be at \$653,312-- 312,803. Let me repeat that.

FOLEY: One minute.

LINEHAN: If we funded TEEOSA by 2.5 percent every year for the last three years, we'd be a little over \$653 million. So if we're not trustworthy and you cannot depend on us to make sure we're putting education first, how come we are now at \$1,052,855,859? This-- we don't fund it, you can't trust it. It's just not true. Here's the numbers. We've actually funded TEEOSA at a compounded 4.14 percent, Senator Clements here helped me do the math so we can trust it. It's

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

not my numbers. Senator Clements, he's very good at this. So we have increased TEEOSA funding on average by 4.14 percent every year.

FOLEY: That's time.

LINEHAN: Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I'll be speaking to something completely different from Senator Linehan's remarks, but they do relate to why I like this budget and support it today. I want to talk a little bit about the coronavirus and COVID-19 because I want to make sure that folks who are watching us know that your leaders in Lincoln are paying attention to this issue and are being mindful and thoughtful about the next steps for the state. We did receive a briefing on Tuesday for the entire Legislature and staff that included UNMC, the Department of Public Health, DHHS, and the Department of Education. And what we know, and what we need to acknowledge, is that coronavirus is here. We have 10 cases that have already been identified. And we know from the Med Center that the doubling rate of coronavirus is about 7 to 10 days, which means that if we have 10 cases today, in 7 days we will most likely have 20 or more. And so it's a respiratory illness. It looks like a cold, it presents like a cold. And for healthy people, it might not present as anything, right? You maybe will have a tickle in your throat or you'll have a headache. But the danger is that you'll carry it to somebody else, right? And so there are a lot of folks who are in the risk category, even in this very room, right? Risk categories are people who are below-- or over the-- over the age of 60 or anybody who has a chronic illness, specifically diabetes, heart disease, or lung disease. And for me, as a young person, I'm young and healthy, but my fear is that I will pick it up and I will go hug my mom when I get home for a recess day and I will give it to her. And that's the real danger. So we know that it spreads person to person. We know that if you sneeze or cough on somebody else, that they'll most likely be able to get it. We don't know how long it stays on surfaces, which is why people are asking you to wash your hands a lot, right? Avoid crowds, don't touch things after other people have been there. Really practicing social distancing. We want people to make sure that they have enough supplies to stay at home if they needed to for a couple of weeks. That's toilet paper and Netflix and canned goods. And we want people, if they feel sick, to stay home. Don't come to work. Look,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

it's just-- if you feel sick, don't come to work because we are about two weeks behind in testing. So when coronavirus gets here, if you've touched another person, we're about two weeks behind in terms of asymptomatic individuals. And so while we know there are 10 confirmed cases, there will most likely be more. My best example is the first person was in contact with 240 people. And so each person after that, 240 people were exposed. And so you just want to think about that math when you're considering what next steps we need to-- we need to take as a state. As policymakers and leaders, though, in the state of Nebraska, this budget is doing what we need it to do to help fight coronavirus and could possibly do more, right? We are increasing our funds to public health. We're ensuring that the Governor's emergency fund remains robust. The other things that members of this body are working on are we're speaking regularly with the Department of Education and working with our local schools-- schools to make sure that they have preparedness plans in space-- in place. Dr. Logan has been very, very much on the forefront of making sure that kids will have computers in hand and can work from home and keep learning, even if they're not in the classroom. She's been really focused on making sure there's food in their hands, so that if school is their only meal of the day, they're going home with a computer to work from, to do school from home, and also food that will keep them-- keep them from being hungry for more than two weeks. I've personally been speaking with other leaders and I would encourage my colleagues to do the same.

FOLEY: One minute.

BOLZ: I spoke with my mother, who serves on a utility board this morning, and said, you need to make sure there's-- there's something that prevents shutoffs if we go into quarantine. Because if there are people who can't afford to pay their bill, if they're an hourly worker, but we have to go into a shelter in place, we need to make sure that their water isn't being shut off. And by 10:00 a.m., she texted me and she already got it done. MUD already has a moratorium now and they just did it this morning. And so I really hope that my colleagues will talk to those public power districts, those utility districts, and make sure that we're thinking of what does that look like in terms of preventing shutoffs for people who might be vulnerable. And then I will also say this body is leading by example. Several events have been canceled. We don't see very many people in the Rotunda. We should see less. We're not shaking hands anymore, at least not when I'm around because I yell at people about it. Last night there was a really lovely event, the suit-- salute to state

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

senators that a lot of folks had worked really hard on. And I recommended that they canceled it, and they followed that advice because it's in our best interest to make sure that we can stay healthy and keep working here and doing the state's business for as long as we can before we go into a shelter in place. There are plenty of resources out there for individuals if you want to learn more about the coronavirus that are fact-based. Those are things like coronavirus.gov with the federal government or dhhs.nebraska.gov has a tab about coronavirus where you can learn about its specific instances and specific resources in the state of Nebraska. A lot of people-- a lot of people are saying, stay calm. I hate it when people tell me to stay calm because that's usually a trigger for me to start freaking out, right? If you tell me to stay calm, I will immediately think, oh, my goodness, there's something I should be worrying about. So what I'm gonna tell you is that we need to stay aware. Right? You need to be prepared for this illness. You need to take it seriously.

FOLEY: One minute.

BOLZ: It is not a matter of if it's coming to your communities in Nebraska, it's a matter of when, right? We move around too much. We travel too much. We are so nice in Nebraska. We hug people and we shake hands and we share cups, and we need to stop doing that. Because I think the--, that this state more than any other is well-positioned to be prepared, but we need to be mindful about our response. And I want the state of Nebraska to know that your leaders are aware and we are working on this. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Wayne. Excuse me, Senator Wayne. Mr. Clerk for an announcement.

CLERK: Mr. President, very quickly. Urban Affairs will meet at 11:00 in 2022. Urban Affairs at 11:00.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Now, Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will be very short. I don't disagree with Senator Bolz that there are-- this is a state budget. But my amendments are very-- are going to be very specific. My amendments are going to be move the rural work force housing money to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, straight up or down vote. Keep the \$3.8 million in or do we split it with West Point to make sure they can have water, straight up or down vote. If this is a state budget,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

we can stand by our vote and we can do that. They will be straight up or down votes. These are amendments that you are asking me to make the same decision when I make-- when I vote for this budget, that everything in there I'm OK with. So I will go line by line and we will have multiple amendments, and we can go straight up or down. It won't take me 10 minutes to open. You don't have to worry about me going three hours. It will be a very simple amendments. Do you think \$3.8 million should go out of our state to feed irrigation, or do we think we should take care of West Point. To Senator Bostelman's point, \$500,000 to the Daugherty fund, while that's important for future and sustainable water, we have people who don't have drinking water. Straight up or down votes. It will be that simple. There will be about 14 of 15 amendments. It will be pretty simple. It may take a little bit of time, but that's how important it is to me. I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Morfeld.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Morfeld, 3:45.

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr President. Colleagues, I just want to echo Senator Howard's words on the COVID situation. I don't know if I can add anything other than simply say that this-- this situation, I think, is a lot more serious than people are currently treating it. I am not a germaphobe. I am not an alarmist when it comes to health issues. And in fact, I'm more of a kind of, you know, if it comes, it comes, and we'll deal with it when it comes. But this particular situation, I've been grappling with myself as somebody who leads an organization with about 180 staff that works largely in our school system of exactly how to, number one, take care of our staff should institutions close and there not be any work for them to do, quite frankly, and make sure that they can provide for their own financial obligations and for their families, but then also balance that with the needs of ensuring public health and ensuring that the people that we serve and the people that we work with in our communities are safe. I would really urge all businesses, all school districts, all other entities to please listen to your local health departments. I think that they have been doing incredible work over the last few weeks, along with the State Department of Health and Human Services. The Governor's Office, I know is taking this very seriously. I think that we can expect to see closures. I know that we can expect to see closures over the next few weeks, and please take those closure seriously. This is a highly communicable disease and it is also highly deadly to certain populations. Not just those that are older, but also those who have weakened immune systems. I hope also that, as the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

situation unfolds, that the Legislature takes seriously the resources that are needed for local health departments, for the state health departments, and also for the caretakers in our hospitals and our nursing homes. I think that there is going to be a lot of needs that come up over the next month or two that can be expected and many that are unexpected. But we have to remain flexible as a Legislature and as a body and that's going to be a tough balance. That's going to be a tough balance to be able to figure out, because there's many of us in this body, I know, that are also highly vulnerable to this virus and this disease. And there is business--

HUGHES: One minute.

MORFELD: --that will be critical that we must get done in order to ensure the public safety and the health of all of the people that we have the care of, which are Nebraskans, 2 million Nebraskans. And unfortunately, I think the resources that we have allocated right now is a step in the right direction, but we're going to find out fairly quickly over the next few weeks that much more needs to be done. And so that I hope that we will unite in not only looking at some of the priorities that we see in front of us right now, but we unite to be able to quickly address the priorities that are going to become fairly prevalent soon. And I'll be honest with you, there's no easy decisions when it comes to grappling with a public health crisis like this, only tough ones. So I hope that we're understanding, that we're flexible, and that we stick together. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Morfeld. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Very quickly, Enrollment and Review reports LB911A, LB965A, and LB1185A to Select File. A series of hearing notices from Health and Human Services regarding confirmation hearings. And the Health Committee reports LB783, LB956, LB1053 and LB1158 to General File, all having committee amendments attached. That's all that I have, Mr. President. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now resume debate. Those in the queue are Linehan, Matt Hansen, Lathrop, Pansing Brooks, and others. Senator Linehan, you're recognized.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Another thing I wanted to talk about or ask, maybe, some questions about, over the last two or three months, actually over the last 18 months, meeting with schools

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

frequently, and I assume they've told all of us the same issue that they face is special education cost. Special education cost can be quite significant, depending on the child. Every school, public school is required to provide an appropriate education for a child, even if they have special needs. And I mean, you could talk about a child who has-- has to have a para and a nurse with them all day. Now, I know I'm not-- I have talked to many of them about different things that maybe we could do, whether it's reinsurance or increasing the funding. But there seems to be confusion with the schools that somehow the TEEOSA funding that we do through the Department of Ed that we appropriate every year is the-- is where the special ed funding comes from. Special ed funding is a separate appropriation. You can find it on page 17 of your green copy. We have increased this over the years, as Senator Wishart has spoken to before. They are-- the people who the organ-- the federal government is dropping the ball on this. When they passed it in the 70s, they promised to fund at least 40 percent of it. They have never gotten above 20 percent. Last time they were close to 20 percent, I think was 2003 or '04. We got consumed-- D.C. was consumed with wars and it went off the skids again. So we need to, as I think, Senator Wishart, if she would yield for a question, I'm sorry I didn't give you a heads up.

HUGHES: Senator Wishart, will you yield?

WISHART: Yes.

LINEHAN: I'm correct, right, that the federal government has been basically flat since the early 2000s on special ed funding?

WISHART: Correct. The federal government has yet to meet that 40 percent commitment that they made when this was first put into place.

LINEHAN: So another question, how-- do the schools come to the Appropriations Committee and request more funding for special ed?

WISHART: The schools have come to me as an Appropriations Committee member and have asked for more funding, which is why I brought a bill, and also a resolution to address this issue on the state and federal level.

LINEHAN: OK. But we did-- but they've not come to-- there's never-- has ever been a hearing in the Appropriations Committee on special ed funding?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WISHART: The hearing has on special ed in terms of when we draft a bill on it goes-- has always gone to Education.

LINEHAN: OK, well, I-- OK. But nothing would keep the appropriators from appropriating more money from special ed. That wouldn't have to come through the Education Committee, right?

WISHART: Correct.

LINEHAN: Because if you--

WISHART: Correct. We could-- and we have brought up in discussions. Now, granted, we do tend to try to be thoughtful of whether-- when there is a bill in another committee that we follow the traditions of respecting those committees.

LINEHAN: But if-- if I wrote a bill to increase special ed funding, wouldn't that go straight to the appropriators?

WISHART: No, it goes to department-- it goes to the Education Committee.

LINEHAN: OK. Well, but you have increased special ed over the years without a bill, right?

WISHART: Yes, we-- we can definitely do that. And that's something that we could still consider this year.

HUGHES: One minute.

LINEHAN: Because that's one thing I'm thinking, if we had \$20 million in savings from TEEOSA, that could have been-- the appropriators could have just moved that to special ed, couldn't have they?

WISHART: We could-- that is something we could look at between now and Select File, talking with the chairman. But we have left money on the floor to be able to address the issues of property tax relief.

LINEHAN: But the committee didn't see a need to increase it this year in the--

WISHART: Well, we--

LINEHAN: Increase it over what we increased it last year.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WISHART: We've really decided to leave a lump sum of money to address property tax relief so that we worked with the Revenue and Education Committee on this.

LINEHAN: OK. So there is-- there is money in the bill, \$130 millions, if we ever get to my amendment, \$130 million in for property tax relief through school funding. I get that, but this is a different issue because this is an appropriation that's not connected to TEEOSA.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

LINEHAN: OK. Thank you very much.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senators Linehan and Wishart, Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. Colleagues, I do rise in support of the budget, and I want to compliment and appreciate all of the work the Appropriations Committee members have done on this. So I originally had kind of clicked on my light earlier when we first started talking about revenue and I-- at the risk of kind of having this debate now, I just wanted to kind of chime in real briefly of, you know, it's been talking a lot about the school districts and things of that nature and how they're handling this debate. I just want to say that, for example, for myself, I know Senator Linehan asked all members of the Revenue Committee to go out and talk with individual senators over the summer to get a sense of what the body was. I was very appreciative. I think Senator Friesen either chose my name or drew my name. I'm not sure if that was by choice or by luck, but we had a quite long talk in the coffee shop in my district about how I viewed school funding, how I viewed property taxes, and what I would need to do to support a bill. And so far at that point I, as LB974 has been the main vehicle, that did not accomplish and do what I was looking for in terms of kind of supporting the Lincoln Public Schools and making sure we have strong schools in my district, which is frankly a strong concern of my constituents. And I know there's other vehicles coming to the floor to discuss property taxes. I haven't had the luxury of being able to see the amendment too, I believe it's LB1106. And at that time, you know, we'll look at it then. But I'll just say, you know, negotiations when we want to look at what we're doing. You know, negotiations, it's not just the schools. There are senators on this floor who have concerns about some of the proposals being brought forward and that's what we

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

said on the microphone on General File. I don't even believe I had the opportunity to talk on LB974, or if I did, only once. So I just kind of wanted to rise in that. I do want to note, colleagues, just as kind of information, as you remember from last year in process, the state claims bill always trails the budget. And we did about half an hour ago hand out a briefing. We got a summary from the State Risk Manager who put together the claims. For the most part, when we would get those claims, those are all things the Attorney General has decided or the State Claims Board has decided, and we are kind of more formalizing that. But that handout has been provided to all of you, so if you have questions on the amounts or the agencies, by all means feel free to come up and let me know. With that, I stand in continued support of the budget. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Pansing Brooks, you're recognized.

PANSING BROOKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, Nebraskans. Our state's unique model is Equality Before the Law. So know that whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, and whomever you love, we want you here. You are loved. I want to thank the people, first off, that came to the press conference yesterday in support of LB627, which is the LGBTQ workplace equity bill. I also want to thank both state chambers, the Lincoln and Omaha State Chambers and the Nebraska State Chamber that came and were present at that-- at that conference, including Bryan Slone. So this morning, I spoke right away to Senator Howard as Chair of HHS and asked her to speak on the coronavirus, because I felt it was important coming from the Chair of Health and Human Services. I-- as I've gone around, the reason I'm standing is because I want to not send out a panic call, but I do want people to, especially people in my district and across the state who are 60 and above, I fit in that category, especially those with healthcare issues, that you are vulnerable. We have got to respond to this. I will be putting on my website and my-- and on social media, the information that was given particularly to the Legislature two days ago-- was it two days ago, regarding the coronavirus, and the information that UMC has. As I've gone around the community and told people the numbers about what we are hearing, people are saying, oh, no, that's not true. This isn't-- this isn't going to happen. So I'm going to repeat those numbers because they bear repeating. UNMC, who is an expert, a world expert in this epic-- epidemic and this pandemic, says that the-- the community attack rate is going to be about 30 to 40 percent. This is a best guess. That's 96 million U.S.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

citizens. Today or last night, there's an NBC story that says that the congressional physician says it's going to be more like 70 to 150 million United States citizens that are going to-- to get this virus. The number of people UNMC has-- has-- is estimating that require hospitalization is about 5 percent of the populations. That's 4.8 million U.S. citizens that are going to require hospitalizations. We have almost 1 million hospital beds right now, and 4.8 million people by CDC, by UNMC are going to require hospitalization. As far as ICU care, the UNMC projection is 1.9 million people are going to require hospitalization in the United States. You know, UNMC is doing a great job, but they can't do everything. They don't have a million beds to put people into care for this issue. That's only one per-- 1 to 2 percent of the U.S. population. As far as ventilator support, they say 1 percent are going to need ventilator support. That is 1 million people. That's every hospital bed in this country is going to be needed to provide ventilator support to the people that are going to truly need it because of this virus. The fatality rate that UNMC has estimated is 0.5 percent. That means 480,000 U.S. citizens, 480,000 U.S. citizens. So we will put this up on our website.

HUGHES: One minute.

PANSING BROOKS: The CDC has also recommended in an AP story that seniors not fly. Again, I don't believe that this is raising to the level of concern where people are protecting themselves well enough. We should be not gathering in large groups. We should be working and getting testing available. I have an amendment that I'd like to bring that-- that has the Governor-- I guess I'll just talk about it in a second again. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. And you are next in the queue.

PANSING BROOKS: So I have an amendment that-- that I've been waiting to bring. But again, we're at 11:00 and I don't know how long all these conversations are gonna go on poor Senator Stinner's appropriation bills, but hopefully we're almost done. But we've got a couple amendments that have been suggested by people to give paid sick and family leave for private or public employees unable to work due to being diagnosed with an infection, disease, or quarantine for-- or secluded for suspected infections. It goes on to deal with a health emergency. Again, we have people-- I hope that what you're hearing is not to panic, but to stay away from large groups of people. We know

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

that there's all-- there are all sorts of discussions. We are going to adjourn soon today until Tuesday. I presume a lot of things will happen by that point. And I don't believe we'll have the chance to fully talk to the citizens again. And I'm asking my older constituents, my-- the other Nebraskans across the state, please stay home as much as you can. Some people don't like that idea. But I do believe the people that are vulnerable should stay home, should be highly concerned, should not be traveling and certainly not going outside the country. So with that, I am keeping-- keeping my thoughts and prayers with the people of Nebraska that we are safe, that we are acting wisely, and that we are doing our best to maintain good sanitary procedures and stay at home and away from crowds as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Pansing Brooks. Seeing you no one else in the queue, Senator Stinner, you're recognized to close on AM2911.

STINNER: Thank you, Mr. President. Just to get back to the subject at hand, AM2911 is a cleanup language, no fiscal impact. I would urge you to please vote green. Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Stinner. The question is, shall the amendment to the committee amendment to LB1008 be adopted? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Stinner's amendment.

HUGHES: The amendment is adopted. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: I don't have any items, Mr. President. If I may, Senator Linehan would move to amend the committee amendments, AM2916.

HUGHES: Senator Linehan, you're recognized to open on AM2916.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. So this is an amendment. It's simple, very simple. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate \$130,000-- \$130 million in 2020-21 for property tax relief and state aid to schools. I just-- I have talked to Chairman Stinner, and he assures me that the funding is there. So I don't really have any more to say on this this morning. I'm hoping some other people will speak to it. And I don't want-- we've already burned up a couple hours here, so I don't want to spend a lot of time on it. But again, I'm willing, the Revenue Committee is willing to sit down with any of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the schools that want to sit down and have a serious discussion. Right now where I think we're stuck is where one group of schools that are saying, if there's any foundation aid in the bill, they will not support. So I think we want to be very thoughtful if we really want to as a Legislature say, to 30 percent of the children in the state of Nebraska, or 35 percent of the children in the state of Nebraska, that your education, K-12, is not worthy of support from the state. Because that's what's going on. We're telling a large number of children and their teachers, mind you, that's what's most, like, amazing to me. The staffs in those schools were telling you are not worthy of support from the state through our education funding. I don't-- I don't know how anybody can really say that, but that seems to be the hill we're stuck on. So but moving past that hill, if we can all agree that that doesn't really make sense, there's plenty of things, little things we've already done. There were schools that came and said they had a problem of setting the budget authority back to zero. So we set it back to 110 percent of '18-19. We worked with the schools, we worked with the Department of Ed. Department of Ed felt that if we set it back to 110 percent of '18-19, that kept all the schools whole. So that's in the bill as it is amended now, if we can get it back to the floor. No one likes CPI, because CPI was-- it changed every year. How can you budget to CPI? So we changed it to 2 percent. The schools, and I have if you're interested, I have the list of the schools here that have net option funding students. Millard, for example, has over 2,200. Bellevue has almost 900. West Side has a large number. I think Northwest is probably the highest with 80 percent option children. So the way the bill was written, that hurt them in the second year because we went from \$10,000 down to thinking the foundation aid would come in and trying to keep them even. We have said we will drop it more slowly, so they will have \$8,000 the second year. I know I get down into the weeds too much, but I'm just trying to say this is down in the weeds. I get that. But we have made-- we have worked with the schools, we will continue to work with them, that there are ways to improve this bill. So now all the net option funding thing has been set aside. So we are also have grandfathered in any school that's using the building fund for a project that has commenced. It's right in the language of the bill. Commenced means the school board has voted to do it. That is grandfathered in. So we have made a lot of concessions. And again, I don't-- the chatter is the Revenue Committee or Chairman Linehan will not work with people. That is not true. Thank you, Mr. President.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Linehan. Those in the queue are Friesen, Briese, Slama, and others. Senator Friesen, you're recognized.

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Linehan, for kind of outlining the property tax problem we have. And I'm going to cover a probably a wide range of things, and if I have to hit my light again, I will. I've been listening here and we've had quite a love fest on the budget. I don't know if we're trying to get and stay until this afternoon sometime, but that's fine. Property tax, we will do something with property tax relief this year. I mean, we have been-- I have been in this body for six years now, and we have, yes, we've increased the Property Tax Credit Relief Fund, but we can do better. We are going to do something. We have a lot of big issues coming up in the next 20 days or whatever we have left and we will address it, or else maybe we should all go home with nothing. To say that I'm frustrated, yes. We have a property tax issue in this state that has not been addressed. And it's fundamentally how we fund K-12 education. I've never complained about my county property taxes. When I lived in town, I didn't complain about my city's property taxes. I ran for city council. But our schools, the way we fund them now, when you have 170-some school districts who don't get hardly any state aid, that we have schools now that get a half a percent of their budget in state aid. And we have other schools, 58 percent of their budget comes from the state. That is inequitable, and it's not fair in the least and we just keep talking about it and we don't want to do anything about it. The Property Tax Credit Relief Fund is, it's there. It's not great. It's not fairly distributed either. It does favor ag just a little bit, but even there it does not fairly distribute it amongst those who pay the most, to those who pay less. So it does have some issues. But we've got to do better in how we fund K-12 and we've got to find a way to do it through the TEEOSA formula so that schools can look at it down the road. They can plan budgets, they'll know what it is, they can predict. We've gone through 10 years where state aid to schools in rural districts, we wonder why their property taxes have increased so much, it's because they got state aid removed from them to the tune of millions of dollars. York Public Schools lost \$2.5 million just over a few years. All of that increase had to go to property taxes, which went straight to ag. That is one of the districts in the state that is hurting the worst. And there's others, that's not the only one. But until we fundamentally address how K-12 is funded in this state, this is going to continue to happen. And with the recent economic developments worldwide, we've seen the stock market crash. We've seen

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

corn and soybeans and the markets collapse. I don't see a turnaround in ag this year, unless something magic happens yet and this finally turns into nothing that we're talking about, but right now the markets are in turmoil. Anybody who has their retirement in stocks has seen their portfolio decline. Stock market is down 3,000 points. We have an issue. Ag markets, we were expecting a short turnaround this year. We're not seeing it. It's going the other way, instead. We had a huge nationwide disaster in the crops last year, and yet our production was still, I think, the second-highest on record.

HUGHES: One minute.

FRIESEN: We have an issue going forward. It's not going away. We have revenue this year to do something so we need to address how we fund K-12. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Clements wishes to announce the following guests visiting the Legislature. We have 48 fourth grade students from Walnut Creek Elementary in Papillion. They are seated in the north balcony. If they would please rise to be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Thank you for coming today. Returning to the queue, Senator Briese, you're recognized.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I'm generally supportive of the budget as reflected in LB1008. As someone pointed out earlier, we have a balanced Appropriations Committee that really represents a cross section of this body. And for them to pass an amendment and a bill out unanimously, I'm gonna have to see something fairly egregious in it to really object to it, and I don't see that. And so I am going to support that. But this is day 40. Things-- things are winding down and we have 20 days left, few weeks left, and the stakes are enormous. You know, where are we on the business incentive package? Where are we on the UNMC dollars reflected in the next package? And where are we on property tax relief? We have a lot of ground to cover in the next few weeks. And on Tuesday, Senator Linehan referred to it, the Revenue Committee kicked out an amendment to LB1106 that really contains a broad series of concessions to our partners in education. And we've said all along that we want to keep schools whole, and LB1106 reflects that effort. And Senator Linehan introduced today AM2916, and that also reflects that effort to help us keep education whole. And it may be a key cog in our ability to put together a package that maintains the interests of education and supports the interests of education. And you can oppose what the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Revenue Committee is trying to do on this issue and you'll feel free to. But folks, we're playing with fire here. If you want to jeopardize LB720 and business incentives in this state, dig in your heels. And if you don't think UNMC dollars are important, dig in your heels and continue to oppose what the Revenue Committee is trying to do. If you want to jeopardize property tax relief, dig in your heels. We owe it to Nebraskans to get this right. And getting this right means a package of LB1106 coupled with the latest concessions to our partners in the education community and that coupled with a business incentive package. And if it takes till the end of the session to get that done, so be it. But really, it's time to quit playing a game of chicken on these issues. Nobody is going to get everything they want. We need to come together and do what's best for the state. That means recognizing the importance of business incentives to economic growth in our state and recognizing the importance of property tax reform to the growth of our state, and reaching common ground on the issues that divide us. And if we continue to dig in our heels, there is a substantial risk that we're gonna go home empty handed on these issues. And it could happen. It could happen. And colleagues, Nebraskans deserve better than that. So thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Briese. Senator Slama, you're recognized.

SLAMA: Thank you, Mr. President. All right, just switching over here. I rise today to wholeheartedly support Senator Linehan's amendment and also in support of the budget. Her amendment ensures that \$130 million is designated for property tax relief. Senator Linehan has done an outstanding job in negotiating the current property tax relief plan and outlining some of the hurdles she's faced in bringing people to the table and negotiating out a deal that is good for Nebraska. Property tax relief is the top issue facing this state. If you're serious about growing Nebraska, and you're serious about growing Nebraska especially outside of Omaha and Lincoln, property tax relief should be front and center on your list of concerns. And I want to spend a bit of time reiterating a point that Senator Linehan made on the mike that should get everybody in this body fired up. The current position of some of the largest school districts in the state is that they do not want to see a dime of per-student funding going to rural schools. That is something that should get everybody in this body fired up. The message of this largest school districts in this state is loud and clear that they don't believe that the kids sitting in a classroom in Pawnee City should have the same educational opportunities as one in, let's say, Lincoln or Millard. We have a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

state funding system that puts our rural schools at a structural disadvantage to providing opportunities to educate our kids. It hurts our rural communities, it hurts our property taxpayers, and it hurts our state's economic development. We have 20 days left to get to a compromise, not just on property tax relief, but on business incentives, on the UNMC project. We have to come to the table and negotiate seriously if we want to get something accomplished. So please, I ask everybody in this body, take a second, take a step back from the lobby and consider the proposals in front of you. Consider if they're beneficial to the state. Ignore the lob-- the noise from the lobby who are, of course, looking out for those-- their own interests. And ask yourself, is this proposal good for the state of Nebraska? Is it good for my district? Is it good for everybody else in this state? Because at the core of it, when you take out the noise in the Rotunda, that's what matters. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Slama. Senator La Grone, you're recognized.

La GRONE: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to thank Senator Linehan for bringing this amendment. Others have already talked about how we have to get property taxes done this year and I think that is absolutely true. So I won't go into the details of that since that's already been said. But I do want to point out that there's really four things that we have to get done this session. We have to get done this budget, we have to get done property tax relief, we have to get done LB720, and then the UNMC project that goes along with that. We're just on the first of those and we're running out of time. So I just want to be very clear, and I think Senator Linehan's amendment does a good job of this. Don't view property tax relief as an optional thing this session. If we don't spend this money on property tax relief, we're not spending it on something else. This is money that must go towards property tax relief. It is absolutely necessary that we get done-- that done this session. I think Senator Linehan's amendment makes that clear. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator La Grone. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I keep going back and forth. And I recognize there could be a crisis, there might not be. And the fact of the matter is, is I'm in the high-risk category, I'm diabetic. And if anybody remembers that chart, I go up when it comes to mortality rate. It's just the fact of it is. The reality of where I'm at today, though, as I foreshadowed this two weeks ago, a week ago

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

when I said D-Day has started on Senator Vargas's bill. And in this appropriation that came out, still had \$10 million for rural work force housing development and this body said no to urban. Whether the coronavirus hits or not, or hits harder or not, I can't support that. And this is a filibuster issue to me when you talk about \$10 million. I can't support giving grants to one party and not grants for scholarships to another party when statistically speaking, and all the research say they are culturally biased. But yet to get those scholarships, you have to have a 27 on your ACT. Well, colleagues, I didn't have a 27 on my ACT. Whereas, Opportunity Grant grants are based off of Pell Grants, which are based off of income. That is a problem for me because for three years I have bent over backwards trying to help rural districts. And I just come out of an exec meet-- exec session where everybody is on board and we still get a no vote. Sometimes we just can't get there, I get that. And that's where I'm at. I can't get there. So now you know what I'm dealing with every time I talk to some of my colleagues in the rural who can't get there. This issue is that important to me, because we don't have affordable housing in north and south Omaha. I'm tired of giving money to property tax credit relief fund when it doesn't help my community and is disproportionate, unequitable to my community. And I'm sorry, I have a fundamental problem with giving \$3.8 million to a canal that serves irrigation when we have cities that do not have drinking water. We're picking 55,000 acres over 1,000 people who do not have drinking water. I fundamentally can't agree with that. So I keep getting asked, am I going the distance today, am I going the distance today? I wasn't planning on to. But the more you tell me not to, the more I dig in. So here I'm gonna offer a simple solution. Pull all the controversial stuff out. If we have to recess, if we have to figure out what's going on because coronavirus is spreading, you can pass the budget for the essentials. Take everything out and let's have a real debate when we're not backed up against the wall on time. But the fact of the matter is, time didn't matter the first 40 days of session. Senator Chambers talked about a lot of things. I heard us talk about a lot of things that weren't really port-- pertinent to anything. But now we have a week, two weeks, we have positive cases, everything has to get done now because it's in a-- we're in a-- we're in a crunch. We're in a situation.

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: Well, my community's been a situation for over 100 years. I got people getting shot, 14-year-olds every day. It's been a crisis every

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

day. I have kids who can't read graduating, going to McDonald's and can't fill out applications every day. So now that corona is around, it's a crisis, but what about those crisis that has plagued black and brown communities for the last 100 years? So I'm supposed to feel sorry today and move this bill along in the efforts of time? I'm in that category. I might not be back here. So this the only time I got. So either we're going to be here till four hours, five hours, overnight. That's where I'm at today. And if people have an issue with it, you can find me off the mike. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Murman, you're recognized.

MURMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I do support the Revenue Committee bill and Senator Linehan's amendment, strongly support that. The Revenue Committee has worked hard for 18 months or so, and longer than that actually, but that long on LB974. And we definitely need to get that or something very similar passed this year. As Senator Briese mentioned, we're extremely running out of time. This is day 40 and only have a few days left. Our tax structure in this state is not working, it's outdated. It hasn't been updated for, I think, 50 years or so. We need a broader base tax structure. We're way too overreliant on property taxes as everybody has been talking about. Nebraska is sixth-highest in the nation in property taxes, we're second-highest in the nation in property taxes per family farmer. If you're worried about the coronavirus and what it will do to our state economy, continue to chip away at-- with high property taxes year after year for-- for our family farmers. Remember back in 2011-2012, the economy was in terrible shape and nationwide, and we're heading in a very similar direction right now. This state was pretty much immune from what was happening in the rest of the national economy. Agriculture was doing well. That's when the shift in-- in supporting our rural schools totally shifted to property taxes. And the ag economy, farmers were glad to do that. We realized, and we still do, the importance of education. I'm on the Education Committee, I know how important education is to this state. But if agriculture continues to deteriorate because of high property taxes, as Senator Friesen mentioned, we're not going to be able to support the schools on property taxes anymore and we're-- we're there right now. Business incentives are very important to the state, and the next project is. But I think every one of us here realizes that neither one of those things are going to happen if we don't get substantial property tax relief this session. So we're-- we're very limited in time. We've got other alternatives that are definitely going to happen. We've got the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

ballot initiative. We've got the consumption tax. Those things are gonna happen if we don't get property tax relief. And we need it right now and it needs to happen soon. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Murman. Mr. Clerk, do you have a motion?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Senator Chambers would move to recommit LB1008.

HUGHES: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on your recommit to committee.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I received a message which is going to prevent me from taking as much time as I might have ordinarily taken. But since I have that motion, I'm going to say a few words. I have stayed downstairs, but I assure you that I've been watching and I've been listening. What brought me up here was an amendment that was mentioned, and it talked about property tax and some of the other issues and that brought me up here. But I'm not going to take a lot of time because there seems to be movement on the floor in different locations that will give me the opportunity to determine what it is I ought to do. And see, by provoking me in the way that white people did with term limits, the things that have happened on the floor of this Legislature on issues that mean something to me, put me in the frame of mind where if it's necessary for me to take over this body, pursuant to the rules, I will do it. But I'm not gonna do it just because I can. I've not gotten involved in any of this budget discussion this morning. And I'm not going to tell you where I am on various issues, but I'm going to talk about a strategy. If there are things that I don't think ought to be in this budget bill, not the budget bill itself, and some of those things are there and I want to get them out, then I could not let the budget bill move to Select File with those things in it. If there's going to be a negotiation, the other side has to tell me we will strip out all these amendments, send a bare bones budget bill to Select File. Then the other side has the burden of putting all those things back in. And if time becomes an issue, then it's on them. But if I give them everything and it goes to Select File, then they just wait me out and they got everything that they want and the leverage that I had, I've given away. Now, if it sounds like I'm speaking in riddles, I don't even care. But there are people on this floor who understand very well what I'm saying and my words are intended for them. When Senator Dorn talked about what ag was willing to do in the past

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

because they understood, they weren't willing to do it, they didn't have the muscle to stop it. The Legislature did it. Ag did not say, for the greater good of the greatest number, we're going to do this. They couldn't stop it. That's why it happened. And I'm not gonna let you all get away with pretending that you are so altruistic and as ag you did this and that. I think these rural people are getting far more than what they ought to be allowed to have. I don't want a taxation on residential water. Well, the farm community already has all the water they want with no sales tax on it. Their water is not taxed. They already got that, however much water they want to use. But here's what I'm going to tell you. Yesterday, I made a promise. Quoting Lincoln, The promise being made must be kept. I promised that I was going to show you a picture that I, when I was a much younger man, had drawn. And it's a picture you wouldn't expect to be drawn by somebody like people picture me to be. But if I write a book about a murderer, does that mean that I'm a murderer? No. If I write a book about war and generals and make them heroes, does it mean that I'm a warmonger? I didn't say whoremonger like your president, but if I wrote a book about that, it doesn't mean I'm one of those. So take this just as a picture. And now people like the mouse are waiting with bated breath to see what it is. See that, that's a comic strip. See? But beneath the comic strip is a drawing made with crayon pencil. Can you see it? Can you see it? I drew-- I drew that a long time ago. There were religious people and there were people who knew something about art, and they said it was the best rendering that they had seen done by somebody so young. Other people would say they didn't think anybody like the kind of person they view me as being could do that. Somebody who draws pictures can draw a picture of anything and make it look like whatever they please. But that's the picture I told you I would show you. Now, I'm gonna go back to what I was talking about. But before I do, I'd like to ask Senator Wayne a question.

HUGHES: Senator Wayne, will you yield?

WAYNE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Senator Wayne, without going into all the things that we were discussing over here, has there been any progress toward what it is you and I are interested in?

WAYNE: I think there has been a little bit of progress. There should be maybe an amendment coming. But it doesn't change the fact that, you know, if everybody thinks this is that serious, at the end of the day,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

I might not come back. So I got to stand right now on my last day, and I guess here in the Legislature. So we might be here all day.

CHAMBERS: So the-- what we're looking at is if the changes that we would like to see don't occur, then we prepare ourselves for a full day of being here?

WAYNE: Correct.

CHAMBERS: I'm prepared to do that. And you all need to just sit back and watch. Or if you think it's a waste of time, go home. And let us not have a quorum. Then the issue is handled for us because as soon as we fall one member below a quorum, in other words, when we wind up with only 24 members, the Legislature cannot function. You all don't have any idea what I'm talking about, do you? That's when I feel the best. But I assure you, there is something very serious that has been discussed, that is being discussed now. But I'm not going to take a lot of time. I had to get to the head of the line to make some comments. But to show that picture that I promised you I'd show you. And with that, Mr. President, we didn't vote on this motion, so I can bring it up again if I need to. I will withdraw that pending motion.

HUGHES: So ordered. Next in the queue, Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Thank you, Mr. President. And thank you, Senator Chambers. So a lot of emotion here this morning. And I have, and I think he knows this, great empathy for Senator Wayne's comments. It is-- it is-- has to be incredibly frustrating to be Justin Wayne. I also told Senator Stinner this morning, who I have high regard for, that after we had a chance to speak to this amendment, I would pull it. So I'm going to do that. And I also would like to thank the Speaker for trying to keep us focused in moving forward here. But we have to-- I would just-- I'm here all weekend, next four days. And if any of you have ideas or suggestions as to how we get out of the log jam we're finding ourselves in here, I will be available. And I will make myself available to any ideas from the schools where they think we can move this forward. But I do think we as senators have to look at what they're actually saying and figure out if-- if you actually agree with that. I'll go back to the trust issue. I handed out what we have done in school funding for the last 30 years. We are way above what the 2.5 percent increase would be annually. So I don't agree that there's a trust issue problem. I think we have to be a little more open minded about this whole every school, every child in every public school in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the state of Nebraska deserves some state funding. I just can't even believe the body doesn't accept that. So we've got a couple of-- a couple of things to overcome here where I think if we just all got together and really talked it through, we're not that far from doing what's good for every student in the state in Nebraska, what's good for our schools, and what's good for our property taxpayers. So thank you all. Have a great weekend. And I am pulling AM2816. Thank you.

HUGHES: OK, we are back to the committee amendments as amended. Those in the queue are Albrecht, Morfeld, Chambers and others. Senator Albrecht, you're recognized.

ALBRECHT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to-- in support of, of LB1008. And I-- and I do believe that the Appropriations had the best interests of our state in mind when they put this together. I also want to stand and thank our local health directors. I have Tiffany Hansen in Dakota County who is manning the 12 students that were at South Sioux City, and their families and the coaches that were at the Fremont location at the Special Olympics. They're doing a great job. I have Julie Rother in northeast Nebraska within Wayne, and she has two of the counties that Senator Gragert represents. She also is taking care of the young gentleman that's 16 that all three schools in Hartington were closed, Wynot, and I believe another one in Senator Gragert's area. These gals are doing a great job. I think the emergency managers in my areas are also doing a wonderful job taking care of the-- the public and letting them know what's going on. We have-- we had a lot of fish fries that have already been canceled. We had a great-- Wayne Fire Department puts on a wonderful breakfast after church on Sunday. They've canceled. So again, I urge everyone in the state to take heed to what was-- has been said. But getting back to Senator Linehan, you know, she serves on the Education Committee and she's Chair of the Revenue Committee. And I feel like she's got the weight of the whole state on her shoulders. I, in District 17, am not willing to sit back and watch this LB974 fail because the larger schools don't care about us. And I don't want to make this a rural-urban situation because I do have a school that-- that gets millions of dollars. I also have a school that gets \$29,000 a year. And if we don't do something about this, I urge every single one of you to go home and take a look at all of your schools and-- and lay it out on a chart as I did. What are they-- what are they going to get if we-- we do nothing and it continues to be what it is today? Or what are they going to leave on the table if we do not pass LB974? You know, I want to bring it back to four years ago when-- when the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Appropriations Committee had to figure out how to cut the budget. We never have let our children down, our schools down, but this is a time that they need to come together with all of us and figure this out for the greater good of our students, our teachers, and our communities. Twelve million dollars will be left on the table in District 17 if we do nothing. We're just trying to figure out how we can all make this work for the greater good of everyone, but property taxes are the reason we went into LB974, and we can't get it unless we figure out how we can take care of our schools. So I just implore each and every one of you to go home and take a look at what's going on in your community. What are your numbers? And find out from somebody on that Revenue Committee what your numbers are and how you can make this work. I yield my time back to the chair.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Albrecht. Mr. Clerk, there's an amendment to the committee amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator, Speaker Scheer would move to amend the committee amendments.

HUGHES: Speaker Scheer, you're recognized.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, twofold, I'm going to give you the information on the amendment, but I also want to give you some update on next week and things that may or may not transpire. So first, I will work on the amendment. The amendment actually has five items in working with Senator Wayne. So everybody is familiar with what we're working on. It will be re-- eliminating out of the budget on page 4, if you have your budget in front of you, item 894-- and can you help me out, Mr. Clerk. It's 894 and what's the second one?

CLERK: Senator, it's 894, 773.

SCHEER: And 773.

CLERK: Right.

SCHEER: Going back to page 16, item number 10 and item number 24. And the last item going back to page 30. The first item, the critical infrastructure facilities for \$3.8 million, that first paragraph. Those-- the amendment would be to delete those items from the budget. And in talking to Senator Wayne and others that they are being collegial to allow us to put these in one package rather than trying to discuss each one at a time. So this will be an up or down vote on

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

these five items. And bear in mind, if-- if we-- if we as a body determined to keep these in the budget, that does not necessarily mean that an amendment on Select or Final in regards to these items or any others could not transpire. But as far as today's discussion, we're going to try to limit it to these five items. So that is the amendment. And I don't normally do this, but I want to make sure that I'm saying what I want to say. We will email a copy of this out. And I'm reading it, I've-- this is thoughts between myself and Senator Hilgers. So I'm sort of hearing it for the first time as well as you from in a written form. But my announcement is in reaction to the spread of the coronavirus, Senator Hilgers and I have decided to make a few additional changes to the way we normally operate. First, beginning Tuesday, the balcony will be closed to visitors, in addition to keeping visitors outside of the Chamber. Second, we have spoken to a few principal lobbyists and with their agreement we are changing the understanding of how notes flow from the lobby will be utilized. We are not discontinuing the process of notes from the lobby, but we are letting them know that the presumption of part of the senators that they will-- that the notes will no longer be a request to go out of-- out into the Rotunda and speak to the lobbyist. We are asking the lobbyists to use the notes as a message service so that they can write a message to the senator or senators, and the senator can respond in writing and have their responses delivered via the Sergeant at Arms and the redcoats back to those individuals. It will be up to the individual senators to determine if they want to walk around in the Rotunda or prefer to set up a meeting in their office, which would be a less congested place. Please know, however, that we are communicating to the lobby that senators will no longer be responding to requests to step into the Rotunda or to visit them, and that notes are only for written forms of communication. We have, Senator Hilgers and I brought in, this is not a unilateral decision. We discussed with a cross-section of lobbyists this morning this new process, and they were all in favor of it. They understood the premise behind it and fully are cooperating with them. Third, today, Senator Hilgers and I will be sending a letter to the school district superintendents of both public and private schools to encourage them to postpone their school visits to the Capitol until next year. With the closure of the balcony and the discontinuance use of the hearing rooms for public groups, the experience for the students would not be the same as if they had visited earlier or perhaps next year or at a later time, if that's the case. And finally today, it is my plan for the body to adjourn until the bell rings. That will be the terms that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

we will be using each day as we adjourn. The assumption is that the body will be reconvening at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning. But by leaving the reconvening time open-ended, we will have the flexibility to access-- access the situation up until Monday evening, given the fast timing of what we are experiencing at this time. My assumption is we will be meeting Tuesday. But each day when we adjourn, we will be adjourning until the bell rings. The assumption is it will be the next day. I will notify everyone via email if that's not the case. But if we do, if we have put a time and date specific, we are obligated to meet them. So this is a way of allowing me the flexibility to be more cognizant of the local events as they're transpiring so that I can react to them on a daily basis or a nightly basis if things change. And I, I don't want to alarm people. This is not to alarm you. This is just a pragmatic approach, a different way to adjourn, using some different terminology that now allows me more flexibility, and when we reconvene. The trigger point for my decision to recess the body for any significant time would be one confirmed community-spread case in Lincoln. It would be a judgment call for us to weigh if a community other than Lincoln met the threshold of one or more community-spread cases. This is a very fluid situation with the decisions being made on a day-to-day basis, and updates will be communicated to you via email as soon as we have those available. If a decision is to not convene on Tuesday, it will be made, the Nebraska's legislative website will be updated to reflect that notice to the public. I will notify you in advance as well. That would be true, however, of any day moving forward. It doesn't matter that it's Tuesday or next Thursday or the following Monday or Friday or whenever it might be, that is how we will be operating for the remaining part of this time period. I want to make note to folks we are in a 60-day period, a 60-day session. By statute, by law, we have to start at a certain date. We do not have to end by a specific date. We will finish the session if we have to leave the session. We will finish the session when I determine it is safe for us to reconvene. Your health [INAUDIBLE] is the paramount to both Senator Hilgers and myself. We are trying our best to keep everyone out of harm's way, and unfortunately that may or may not be the case for us to be able to do. That's why this is literally will be a determination on Senator Hilgers and myself each day as we move forward, bearing on what is transpiring around both the state and locally. This may promote more questions. Please feel free to come back and talk to either Senator Hilgers or myself. But I did want to make sure everyone was aware of how we are planning to try to proceed, knowing the uncertainty of the things that may or may not happen.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

These are just some forethought and some planning that we've put into how we operate so that we can react on a very quick basis. And so if and when we would have to do that, everyone is prepared and understands why those decisions will have been made. So again, any questions, please contact Senator Hilgers or myself. And with that, I would encourage some discussion on my amendment and then allow for a vote to be held on this amendment on an up or down basis. And hopefully then we'll proceed through the two budget bills. It is important, we are on a time line. And what I am looking at specifically is that hopefully we will never have to have an extended leave. However, if that case is not, the state needs to be able to fund itself. The budget, in order for us to be able to pass that budget on next Friday, we do have to pass the budget today. Tuesday we will bring, if-- if this is passed, Tuesday it will be back on the agenda at Select File. Wednesday we'll probably take that day to functionally look at the bill up in-- upstairs so that it is in its correct form and correct language. Recalling to your memory, we do have a layover day from Select to Final. Somebody just owes me five bucks. So in order to get that back and across the board at the Clerk's table on Wednesday, Thursday then becomes the layover day and we will do Final Reading on the budget on Friday. My purpose behind that is trying to be preemptive and get this done in a quick and thoughtful manner. But at least, regardless if we have to interrupt our session for a time, or a longer period of time, we will have allowed the state to function because we have passed the ongoing budget. It is not to be assumed that I am going to recess us for an extended period next Friday, that is not the case. I'm trying to do this preemptively so that we have things done that we have to be done. Those that may have thought, OK, if we're done with that, then I'm never going to get my bills read, heard or passed, that is not the case. We will reconvene. If we ever take a extended recess, we will work on those bills. We have X amount of days left on our calendar that we have to utilize and we will utilize those. But please, Senators, it is imperative that we stay on task, have a thoughtful discussion this morning or this afternoon in two minutes, and be able to move those two budget bills forward so that we are in position to be able to do our jobs and have a budget that will allow the state to continue. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Scheer. Returning to the queue, Senator Morfeld, you are recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, first, I want to thank Speaker Scheer and Senator Hilgers for their work on this, and particularly making sure that we have reasonable precautions to ensure that we're safe, or as safe as possible, as we go through this. I think inevitably some of us, maybe even all of us, at one point will get this throughout the year. And it's important that we continue to do the business of the state. I do want to note that while I think it's prudent if there is a community-spread case in Lincoln to take actions and perhaps delay the Legislature, I would say that we have a lot of people traveling from all over the state, particularly Omaha. And so I don't know if maybe we should be relooking at that, particularly if there is community spread or, or a senator or staff member that has a confirmed case. If that happens, I think we definitely need to take action. I do want to talk about the appropriations bill and then also about the amendment. First, I am in support of LB1008 and I appreciate the Appropriations Committee's hard work on that legislation. I have a lot of respect for Senator Wayne and what he says and the community that he represents in particular. That being said, I am opposed to the floor amendment. I'm opposed to the floor amendment because I think many of the items in that floor amendment are critical, both for the state infrastructure in greater Nebraska, but then also throughout the state in terms of scholarships and other things that are going to keep us competitive in Nebraska. I also want to respond to a few different things that were said on the floor, I think by my colleagues, Senator Briese and Senator Slama. I have always been careful as a legislator to try to look at each bill independently of what occurred on the floor on other pieces of legislation. Sometimes that's tough. Because sometimes we work really hard on things that we're passionate about, that our district is passionate about, and it's hard not to let those feelings about what happened to those bills bleed over into other bills. But I have worked really hard to look at each bill on its merit and to not exact revenge on a certain bill simply because something didn't happen on one of my bills that I care about. And so I don't think we should be doing quid pro quos. If you don't pass our property tax relief, I'm not going to pass legislation that would provide for a \$300 million, actually \$2 billion groundbreaking medical and research laboratory that, quite frankly, would be really nice to have right now given our current crisis. That's absurd. That's bad policy. It's bad policy, and not only that, if we start using that litmus test on all the pieces of legislation, then we're gonna be in trouble and we're not going to be passing a lot of good policy in this body. Because that's what that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

is. If you don't pass my property tax relief package, then it's a quid pro quo, I will not pass something that would greatly improve the public health and safety of this state. That's bad policymaking and it's a bad precedent to set. I'm not in support of LB974 because I believe it's bad policy. I believe it's bad policy for the people that I represent. I believe it's bad policy for even some of the people that I don't represent. It's not revenge. It's not exacting anything. It's just me saying, look, I've looked at it. I've seen the data. It's not a permanent fix, it's not a long-term fix. I think it's bad policy. It's not because I don't like Senator Linehan, which I actually do like Senator Linehan. It's because it's bad policy. If I would use that litmus test, the same litmus test that I heard come up from the front of my colleagues on property tax relief as compared to--

HUGHES: One minute.

MORFELD: --the business incentives and also the UNMC project, then I'd be voting against 90 percent of your bills given what's happened to Medicaid expansion and the bills that I introduced on that. You don't vote for Medicaid expansion, I'm not voting for your bills. Come on. I agree, property tax is an important issue. I agree that it's an important issue, more so to some senators in here than others, but I am going to vote for bills based on their merit and whether I think they are a good bill for my constituents in the state of Nebraska. Not because somebody is going to vote for something or not vote for something else that's unrelated. And I hope that we would be better than that. To say that we're going to hold a UNMC project that's gonna be critical infrastructure over the next few years and a business incentives package, which I have my own reservations, but I think it's generally important and good to pass, that is bad policy. It's immature.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Morfeld. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the chair-- of the Legislature, child psychology does not even work with children. I'm not a child, and I will do what I think is the right thing to do, to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

push for the issues I believe in. I'd be a fool to stand on this floor and say, you can vote against everything that I think is necessary to help those I'm here to represent, but I'm not going to take that into consideration when you bring something. I do believe in quid pro quo. You slap me, you're gonna get slapped back harder. Now, it would be a mistake if-- let me put it on me. If there were things I think should not be in this budget bill, and there are five of them, and they're all put in one package to be voted on, I'm not going to agree that if they vote it all down then I'm going to go home and let it stay like that. You know, it's going to be voted down. All that I have is time. And I tell you all at the beginning of the session that we're going to reach a point where I now have the advantage because time is on my side. And you can walk on me, you can stomp on me, you can kick me, but I will take my revenge. And I've told you, my revenge is based on the time that I can take. The time that I can take and the point at which I will take that time, and it becomes most effective when time is of the essence. If we run out of the 60 days that are allowed, enough of you all can vote to extend the session. And if it means so much to you, extend it until next year. But this that Senator Morfeld is talking about is crazy. It works for a white guy who gets much of what he wants, but those of us who get left out in the cold all the time are not going to accept a negotiating tool that works for white people and destroys us and takes from us what we can do. It's like him saying, well, Ernie, we're management and we're not gonna give you a raise, but we want you to give up your right to strike. Well, the only thing I have is the right to strike. That's the only thing I have. We're not matching dollar for dollar. You don't want to pay me. I think I'm not being adequately compensated for the work that I do, and you need me and my work to make all your money and you don't want to rent-- share it in a way that is equitable. So get ready for a strike. Now, I often use metaphors and analogy. I'm prepared to strike. I showed you all the other day how long I can talk, how I'm willing to talk, and I can talk about anything I want to or nothing, but every word that comes out of my mouth takes time off that clock. And that's what my aim will be, to run out the clock. Now, maybe you can be clever enough to stop me, but I don't think so. The budget bill is not the only bill. This budget bill is not the only bill that people want to see passed this year. They've got other things. Those who work on the budget and work in that area think it's most important. It might be for them, but it certainly is not for me. And I have motions that I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

have not said I wouldn't offer. I withdrew one in order that some other things could be said. But I have countless motions, and I also--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --can look at how many sections there are to that bill. And if I offer one amendment to each of those sections, what can I do? And you know what it will be, brothers and sisters, if you think that my tired old brain cannot formulate an amendment? Amendment one: strike Section 1. That's a motion and we talk and I get three times. Then I'll make a motion to reconsider while I take all the time I need to write my next motion: strike Section 2. And I get three times to talk. Reconsider: strike Section 3. Now, like white people say, you do the math. I'm not playing. I don't even have to raise my voice today, because we're not talking about principles in the sense of what is right and wrong or good for the greatest good for the greatest number.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, for a clarification.

CLERK: Well, Mr. President, just to hopefully clarify some things. The version that you have now on your Chamber laptops is the correct version of the amendment because it correctly references provisions within the committee amendment. So if you saw the earlier version, ignore it. This is floor amendment FA110. It should be on your laptops right now. That's the version that is before you and for your consideration.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returning to the queue. Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning again, colleagues. Or good afternoon now, colleagues. I wanted to push my light. We're kind of having two debates at once. I know we had a talk on property taxes and the tax plans coming up and that's why I initially clicked on my light. And I guess the one point I want to make on that is there's some reference to school districts holding things up. School districts aren't holding things up, senators on this floor are holding things up because they did not believe that the tax plans that have been proposed so far are right for their districts and right for their communities. We all have the autonomy as senators to vote how we

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

believe and to vote how, what we think is fair and is best. I take what happens in Lincoln, what happens to Lincoln Public Schools very seriously. And that is what my constituents want of me and what my constituents have expected of me. So this isn't Lincoln Public Schools or any of the other school districts you can name throwing a wrench in the process, this is us as senators, a group of-- a number of us who have concerns about the property tax proposals we've seen so far. And I want to make that clear. With that, we have moved on to a discussion on this amendment and out of courtesy, I was going to yield floor amendment-- sorry, I'll yield the remainder of my time to Senator Stinner.

HUGHES: Excuse me, Senator Hansen, did you yield your time?

M. HANSEN: Yes, to Senator Stinner.

HUGHES: Senator Stinner, you're yielded 3:20. I don't see Senator Stinner. Next in the queue, Senator Wayne. Excuse me, we have a priority motion. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Yes, I do, Mr. President. Senator Wayne would move to recommit LB1008.

HUGHES: Senator Wayne, you're recognized to open on your recommit motion.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr President. Colleagues, I just, I knew five minutes wasn't going to give me enough time to maybe paint you a picture of what's going on here today. And some of you might be confused, some of you might be like, why is this so important? I told everybody at the beginning of the session that I was gonna have a Maynard moment and it's coming to this point. And as Senator Chambers said, at the end of the day, the only tool I have is time. I am clearly the minority in more ways on this body. I don't have anything but the leverage of time, and I learned that from Senator Chambers. Yeah, there is a bill stuck in committee, a Revenue-- a Government Committee that's very important to me. But let me tell you, unlike what Senator Morfeld's saying is, is that we don't look at things per bill. I wish it was that simple for me. I have to look at the policy and the history, and let me tell you why I have to look at the policy across this body, the interaction that I see across this body, and the history of this body. That when I look at a bill, I can't escape that history. And I don't want to disrespect anybody by telling you things

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

you already know, but I'm gonna try to give you a three-simple-part perspective of why today is so important to me. No other ethnic group on this soil has endured the things that my community has. And I want to put this in perspective of cost and why budget is so important. So African-Americans were brought here in 1619, involuntary enslaved. And that was America's original sin. 1863. 1863, slaves were freed through Abraham Lincoln. Slaves got no land, they got nothing in reality. And at the same time, during this time, America was giving away millions of acres of lands in western country and the Midwest. The recent-- recently freed slaves had no opportunity to participate initially in the Homestead Act. Martin Luther King Jr., since many of you guys would probably rather listen to him said, there was a willingness to give gover-- to give white peasants from Europe an economic base, yet it refused to give black peasants from Africa, who came here involuntary in chains and worked for 300-- 250 years any-- any economic base. So to free the slaves costs this body, because we were formed in 1865, cost this body nothing. Yet we benefited for hundreds of years. Fast forward from 1900s to 1970s, we had Jim Crow, and I can tell you more and more. We can go through red lining, which I passed out maps last year. When we decided not to discriminate anymore, it cost this body nothing. When we had the right to vote in the 1800s, it costs this body and America nothing. It took till 1964 where we had a Civil Rights Act, it cost this body nothing. But yet you have benefited from free labor and discrimination for years. The fact of the matter is most of the people during the 60s and 70s got nothing but fake education. What we used to call Jim Crow math and back of the bus science. And that lasted all the way up till the 90s. I remember a dual education system at my high school in Northwest. You can walk into any public school today in Omaha, they segregate where the honor classes are from everybody else. You have a two-system education system. And it cost this body nothing to keep those people down. It isn't until it becomes economically important that we need more workers, we need more of these things, do we actually want to do something. So that past discrimination still affects us today and I can't escape that when I look at this body or each bill. Let me give you a reason two. Black Americans have lost their entire culture. My last name is Wayne. That is not my ancestral roots. Every Irish person, Jewish person, almost anybody in this body, except for Senator Chambers and I, cannot trace back our roots. That culture is critical to social capital. If you don't know what that is, Putnam termed it. When social capital is high within a community, that community is more successful. And that is based off of cultural norms. Think about the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Catholic Church. There are celebrations you do when people do certain things or reach certain ages. Think about the Latino corp-- culture. There are certain things at certain ages, there are celebrations. You can't pinpoint that in African-American culture. I can't escape that when I look at this bills. But because of those first two things, the color of our skin became a stigma in America to a point that Senator Chambers said something on the floor that most people didn't catch. One drop of our blood made you something else. But the color of our skin, and it still happens today. 1960 Brown v. Board of Education, they handed out dolls to kids, one black, one white. Said which one is good, which one is bad? And even the black children, not just the white children, picked the white doll. When I was in high school, they redid the same study. Same results. That study was mimicked three years ago. Same results. The color I bear every day is a stigma. So, yes, when there was a \$3 billion project in north Omaha and we're not able to participate, that's a problem for me. And just because time is now a factor to get a budget done, I'm supposed to ignore the stigma that was created for the other two reasons that I had nothing to do with. I'm supposed to ignore that feeling and say, budget rush time, we got to get it done. The fact of the matter is that we still got wealth and achievement gaps. The fact of the matter, if you don't believe in that stigma, I will tell everybody to close their eyes and just imagine this. You're walking down the street, a dark alley in Lincoln at night. You hear footsteps behind you. You turn around. What color do you want that person to be? That is the stigma. There is a gender stigma, I can say the same thing and tell you, what do you want that person to be, male or female? But when you think of a male or you think of color, we know what people think about. And that study was done too. And guess what? You pick up the phone and you call somebody to rent an apartment and you sound African-American, it's proven. So, yes, there is a bill stuck in committee, is that why I'm doing this? No. But when I see that we can't afford to give small businesses and historical businesses an opportunity to compete, but we are spending billions and millions on things that really fundamentally won't have an impact in my community, I'm gonna stand tall today. I have no other option. And I've told everybody ahead of time, this is where I'm at. This is the most important issue to me because I've told you all while social programs are important, economic changes are the only way we are going to fundamentally change what happens in north and south Omaha. If people have good-paying jobs, they don't need all the social programs we're putting money into. That is why I'm here today and that is why I'm holding up everything. Opportunity Grants versus Nebraska

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

grants, I know that motion is gonna fail. But here's the difference, you have to have a 27 to get a Nebraska grant. That is an ACT score that is culturally biased. So I'm supposed to ignore the history I just said that brought me here today and say I'm going to vote for that? Despite the fact that Opportunity Grants are based off of income.

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: You expect me to ignore that? And say, well, let me just close my eyes and go with it because we've got to get the budget passed. You expect me to ignore that we're going to put \$3.8 million into another state. I'm fine with that. I would actually support that. But then give us something for our community. You've never paid-- this state has never paid for us to be full citizens. Despite the fact that it benefited off of our labor and hard work for years. And I'm not even asking for that, I'm asking for an opportunity just to compete. I'm asking for an opportunity that if it's good for rural, let it be good for urban. I don't think that's asking for too much. But we got to pass the budget to get it done. We got to pass the budget because around the corner is the issue. That's not good enough reason. In my office--

HUGHES: Time, Senator, but you are next in the queue.

WAYNE: In my office in Omaha, I have a bullet, and I'm gonna try and not get teary-eyed, that my 5-year-old cousin found playing outside in his front yard across the street from the elementary school. I have that there to remind me every day, we've got to do something. And it isn't just gun violence. We can talk about all of that. But everybody wants to be upset because somebody carried a weapon into the-- into the Capitol? Well, take a walk down with me in north Omaha. You're scared because something may happen inside the Capitol? I know most people in my community who come here are afraid of the people who have the guns already in the Capitol. We got a lot of issues. But when I look at a budget that represents the state priorities, I don't see anything in here that's going to change my community. And if somebody can point to something that will fundamentally change my community, I'll be fine with it. But it's not. We're not talking about jobs going to north Omaha, but we're carving out rural exceptions. I go through the tax code, we got more exceptions for farmers in rural Nebraska than anything else. So, no, I don't get to sit at this budget and look at the budget and not think about my bill. I don't get to sit here and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

look at this budget and think of not all the bills that Senator Vargas was introducing to make a difference. I don't look at this budget and get to say no, let's not, let's ignore Senator Lathrop's bill. I don't have that blessing. Because every day I go back, my community is getting ignored. Or the best way you think you can fix it is through social programs. That stops, and that stops today. We'll have an up or down vote. It won't go my way, but the budget won't meet that Friday deadline. I can guarantee you that. Because the one thing I learned in this body is one person can slow it down, but two people can stop it. Call the question, do everything you want. I will have amendments on the board that you will have to vote on, and I don't just do motion to recommit and those things. I actually make you vote. You're gonna make the same choice. Pick West Point or pick Gering over West Point. Pick Gering over Peru. We're going to have those specific amendments and everybody in his body is going to have to vote or be allowed a not-present voting. And it will take the full time each round. And if this burns every bridge that I have in here, I'm not going to apologize for it. I'm one of the few who will be back regardless. But this is that important to me, and this is the moment that I get to have because everybody else is in a rush. But we weren't rushing the first 30, 40 days trying to talk about sick leave, trying to deal with every other issue that we're dealing with, but today is a big rush because we want to get out of here at noon. Well, I just missed the bid, pretty significant bid, so we can be here all day. We got to do better as a body. I have bent over backwards trying to work with everybody. But to ask me to ignore all the things that have brought me here today--

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: --is irresponsible, because I won't be that irresponsible to my community. And with that, I withdraw my motion to recommit.

HUGHES: So ordered. Next in the queue, Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm going to try to contain myself, not try to yell or scream or throw things, but I'm a little frustrated right now. Property tax is one of my priorities, it's one of the body's priorities, I get that. We have in Appropriations tried to provide enough room in that for property tax. So right now, if you took a look-- a look at your status sheet, right now we have \$130 million available for A bills. A bills, folks. There are bills coming out of committee, priority bills coming out of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

committee that will probably take \$5 to \$6 to \$7 million out of this total. They're critical to everybody. Every committee, whether it be Judiciary, Health and Human Services, all of the committees I've talked to, Business and Labor. I've surveyed the chairs, I know what's coming. What I would like to do, though, is to withhold some of the money for critical infrastructure that-- or a coronavirus, which we are going to have to confront. And my number is \$20 million, it might end up being \$10. But we are going to have to provide the resources to face this-- this crisis. I get the fact that this has to be a deliberative process and everybody should be able to weigh in. Everybody should be able to look at every item. But believe me, the deliberative process started in Appropriations. And this discussion actually flies in the face of me personally and certainly flies in the face of the people who sit on Appropriations. I don't get everything I want. It's a process. If you have ideas, come to Appropriations with them, we'll weigh it. We try to be fair and balanced in our approach. What you see here is fair and balanced. What you see in this amendment is not. Apparently we don't put any priority on rural housing. One of the successful programs that we've already proved and we don't care about flooding. And apparently we don't care about passing a budget which has \$55 million of state money to support the construction that's being done. And oh, by the way, it is going to benefit the West Points and the Cuming Counties and the counties that were affected. And we are allocating \$9.2 million to help those counties so they can restore some basic services. Water being one of those. And oh, by the way, if it doesn't, come to us. Come to us. Yeah, I had a tunnel collapse in my-- my district, \$3.8 million dollars of critical infrastructure. Turn your back on it. They don't have any way of getting this money back. And apparently we don't care about education because we're going to eliminate-- anyway we don't care about education, we don't care about work force because we want to start a program to help retain the best and brightest. Yeah, the best and brightest, we're talking to that side. We also are talking to the other side that says Opportunity Grants, we're also talking to Dual Credit. Dual Credit is one of the best successful programs that you have. The best program that we have to advance a kid out of high school, getting them to college, and/or to the work force. Senator Scheer told me to calm down, so I will. Do we need a budget passed? We got a budget. We passed it. But oh, by the way, we do have to pass this budget.

HUGHES: One minute.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

STINNER: Fifty-five million dollars has to go to the emergency fund. I think we've talked about that enough. But DHHS needs it for staffing. We got a homestead exemption to finance. We've got protective services as it relates to prisons. Lincoln Regional Center needs it. Otherwise, we lose the funding there. I think Beatrice, when we had all of that fall apart. ICAP needs to be funded. And we get down through this thing, and obviously all these bills that were presented, we tried to treat in terms of work force what we need to do. It's a skosh of money, folks. A skosh. We tried to do something for aid to individuals, cost-study, mostly. Tried to get that passed and through. We also tried to do something for the prison overcrowding situation. And in that is embedded a-- a program that will help work force, help prisoners when they are in--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

STINNER: Thank you.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Stinner. Senator Williams, you're recognized.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, colleagues. I don't know that I've ever heard more frustration shown in one of my days in my six sessions here than we have seen this morning. I understand that. I am empathetic to some of it, not all of it. I want to talk about another frustration that I believe is vitally important for each one of us to think about in here, and that's our process and how we rely on that process to consistently run this body, pass legislation that is good for our state, and make things better for all of our constituents, whether you're in north Omaha or Gothenburg, Nebraska. I'm looking around this body. There's a lot of committee chairs sitting in here. There's a lot of people that have been here for a number of years and I look at myself at this point as a senior senator. And what we are talking about with a lot of the frustration here is avoiding the process. I'm proud of this process, I'm proud of how our committees work. It is the only structure like it in the United States. And we have a system that is being challenged this morning where we have the nine members of the Appropriations Committee that have vetted fully everything that is in this budget, and that's being challenged. That's OK. But when I look at the people that are there and I trust their abilities and I trust our system, and I hope you will, too, it makes no sense to stand here now and rip five things out of a budget that the nine members of the committee have spent all

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

of these days working on and vetting and having hearings on all of those bills and then including them in this budget. I hope you will think about that as we move forward. I hope you will think about that with other things that come up in here. And I don't know about you, but I'm tired of being threatened every time we turn around by something, I'm going to do this or I'm going to do that. We're here. We're better than that. I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Kolterman.

HUGHES: Senator Kolterman, 2:10.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you very much, Senator Williams. Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, am a little bit frustrated this morning. I am one of those that believe that we should be nonpartisan body, we should be listening to each other, and talking to each other. It bothers me that we have a process in place that is being ignored to a certain extent, whether we're talking about the budget, whether we're talking about a committee that can't get a bill out, how we circumvent certain issues. A lot of pressure is being put on us as senators, and at times I feel like I accepted this job to take some of that pressure but other times I think, do we need to do this for what we get paid? It affects our personal lives, our families. I can sympathize with what Senator Wayne and Senator Chambers have talked about, but I've never lived in those shoes and I don't know what it would be like.

HUGHES: One minute.

KOLTERMAN: But I do want-- I do want Senator Wayne to understand that there is things in the budget for his, his people. We have a \$300 million project that's in the budget that I would hope would help north Omaha. We put in there, at his request, a section in-- in the first tier that would deal with the people in north Omaha as it pertains to blighted and substandard types of places. We've given them some extra credits, just like we have rural Nebraska. I think that those things were listened to. We have made adjustments in LB720 that will address many of the concerns that he has. And yet we do need to get property tax relief. I think we need to pass this budget and move down the road and fulfill the last 20 days of this session and make it as nonpartisan as possible--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

KOLTERMAN: --and continue to work. Thank you very much.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

HUGHES: Thank you, Senators Williams and Kolterman. Senator Briese, you're recognized.

BRIESE: Thank you, Mr. President. And good afternoon, colleagues. I wanted to stand up and respond, maybe just couple of comments were made earlier, and then talk about a couple of the issues here. I've been saying for months that we need to come together as a body, recognize the importance of business incentives and property tax reform to our state. Come together, recognize the importance of those two, and do what's best for our state and put together a package deal, move them both forward. But I did hear someone suggest that maybe that's an immature approach and doing things for revenge, things of that sort. Not hardly. Go out to my district and ask them what they think of business incentives and what they think of \$300 million going to UNMC project and then-- then come back to me and you might understand some of my position here. I had one constituent suggest to me when I told him that I was going to support those proposals that I was selling out the district. When you're one of about a dozen or so senators representing folks getting hammered by our unreasonable, unsustainable reliance on property taxes to fund local government, you use any advantage or any amount of leverage you can and I'm not gonna apologize for that. And so what about the issues? What about the \$300 million UNMC project? I think today's environment reinforces the importance of that project. I do not deny that. And I do support the project, I do support the concept. But I sat, I did sit at-- sit in on the hearing on that, and I also sat in on an information meeting on that. And I think both places I asked, how is the \$300 million arrived at? And in the hearing in particular, I asked, are those dollars absolutely critical to this project going forward? And I didn't really get a good answer. What I did here at the hearing was that we have a unique situation here. The location we're talking about is, you know, unique in the country and is one of the most desirable, if not the most desirable location for a facility like this. Proximity to Offutt or work force proximity and collaboration with UNMC. And I walked away from that hearing thinking to myself, this thing might just get built without us ponying up \$300 million of our taxpayer dollars. But I guess at this point, I am willing to assume that those \$300 million are necessary to this project going forward. And so I, as part of a package deal, I am willing to move that forward as part of the package. And I heard earlier concerns about the Rural Workforce Housing Fund and I think the overall concern was, you know, maybe Omaha is not getting enough dollars out of the budget here and rural--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

rural Nebraska is getting favored. Well, the number that sticks out to me in this budget is the \$1 billion we spent on TEEOSA aid. And I have spreadsheets over there that tells us, you know, roughly how much each school district in each county gets in TEEOSA aid, and what OPS gets is close to a third of that, \$300 million, give or take. Douglas County gets roughly \$400 million of that billion dollars. Compare that to what we get out in rural Nebraska and you can see some-- understand some of our frustrations. As Senator Friesen indicated earlier, some of the rural school districts are hardly funded at all by the state. We've got districts out there getting 1 percent of their total funding from the state. Some at 2 percent, 3 percent, 5 percent, 8 percent. And so that-- that adds to our frustration. And at the same time, when we have those numbers out there like that, we're trying to get a property tax relief proposal that can help equalize that somewhat and help us remedy that disparity. And yet we have a lot of urban senators that don't want to get on board with this--

HUGHES: One minute.

BRIESE: --and I don't understand that. Thank you, Mr. President. And so I appreciate the discussion today. And I appreciate Senator Wayne's perseverance and tenacity on these issues and I understand that and thank him for bringing some of these issues to our attention. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, it's a different song that is sung when somebody else's hog is finally being gored, if you want to call it that. I've discussed many issues during the session. The Chamber would be empty. And now people get up here with these solemn, mournful tones about what we must do for the state and nine people on that committee vent-- vetted these things and this is what they gave us. If somebody else choose food, I don't have to swallow it. They aren't smarter than I am. None of this stuff that we talk about requires an Einstein to understand. Everything we do is political. Everything. You all don't care about the underside of the garment and the people who are there. You stand up here and say you understand what Senator Wayne is talking about. No, you don't. You haven't even heard him. None of you all are confronted by the things that we, Senator Wayne and I, and even some poor white people, are confronted with. They don't have a spokesperson in here. I don't feel

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

sympathy for you. But when you all are running here with bills because white people suffered from flooding, they had a bill that was unconstitutional, and I called it to their attention and they were able to correct it. I should have let it go on through. They thought they had something taken care of, and it would be shown when it was too late to do anything about it that the bill is unconstitutional and you get nothing. But I helped these white people whose geniuses sit here and pass this crap that they call legislation, and a black man has to straighten it out for them. And I ought to do you all just like you do us. But I haven't reached that level of depravity yet. But you all make it mighty difficult to rise above it. I haven't heard one person on this floor other than Senator Wayne talk about the issues that relate to our community. You get tired of hearing it because it's told-- spoken by one or the other of us, usually me. And I try to explain to you why you white people are in a different situation. White people's interests, Senator Kolterman, Senator Stinner, Senator Williams, all of you, they parallel. They intersect, they overlap. So if 10 of you don't feel like talking about it, there are 40 others who will take care of it, and they will take care of the white people's interests. Always plenty of white people to look after white people and that's what you do, but when a black man is arrogant enough to stand up and say, I want my part for my people, then you get upset and you leave the Chamber. You're like Pilate. Jesus said something about truth and Pilate asked, what is truth, and walked out. Didn't wait for an answer. That's the way you all are. You talk about these farm people. How Senator Briese is told that, if he goes for this giveaway to the corporations, he's selling out the district. All those are white people against white people. And you all will work out agreements to help white people. And those of us who are left out are to occupy a nonhuman position and go along and let you walk on us and wipe your feet on us. I'm prepared to stay here all day and all night and every other day and every other night. I've shown you that I'll do it, haven't I? I'm not even tired. I haven't even gotten warmed up, as I say. And Senator Kolowski gave me an orange square, and it has the large letter L and a small 3.

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: My mantra: The least, the last and the lost. That's not who you all are talking about here today. You're thinking about your own interests, your own political welfare, your reelection. You're full of it. And we're gonna stay here a good while. And you can vote down this amendment, which will not surprise me. It won't surprise Senator

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Wayne, it won't surprise the Speaker. But I'll tell you what, I will go through this budget bill, like I told you, and offer to strike each amendment, I mean, each section and I think there are about 70, give or take 10. And I'll do it without anybody participating. And you will see if this 82-year-old man can deliver or if I'm just fat-mouthing. And you can all leave the Chamber too. But the clock is tick-tock, tick-tock. And that's the drum--

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --to which I walk. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Kolterman is right, we have worked on LB720. But just because I work on one bill and I get something done doesn't mean that relieves the rest of the body and the rest of the bills from anything else being done. Second, Senator Stinner mentioned a few things about I guess we don't care about this, I guess we don't care about that. I've got a simple solution, put an amendment up there that match everything that we want to do, Opportunity Grants, Senator Vargas's bill. Match it right now, we can all go home today. But to say that we don't care about X, Y and Z, we don't care about Gering, what happened with their-- with their canal, that's my point. We're saying we don't have-- we don't care what happens about West Point, them not having water. So I know this amendment will fail because it's put together in a way that it will bring a whole bunch of people against it. But let's just talk about process. Process is an important when you want to get rid of a bill. We talked about a bill that should have went to Urban Affairs this year, it didn't go to Urban Affairs because Hilgers brought up the process. It went through the process and this is where we voted it. But nobody in this Chamber, and I respect Speaker Scheer, he is doing the best he can. But nobody brought up the three-hour rule. We should already be adjourned. This bill should have to come back after he shows 33 votes on a car and come back on Tuesday. Where is the process, Senator Williams? Where's the process, colleagues? How many of your bills have died on the floor, because we could have just used a, maybe, an hour to finish it? That is the point. Process matters when it matters. We pick and choose when we can in a safe committee when we can vote on something but this budget is our priorities. This is what we're telling the entire world, this is what's important to us because we're putting money behind it. And yes, a \$300 million

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

appropriations to UNMC to do a project in east Omaha sounds like it would benefit. Here's the problem, history doesn't show that. History shows that there was a \$5 billion project, east Omaha, in which minority contractors got in less than 1.05 percent. Our economic conditions didn't change, yet \$5 billion was spent, not just east of 72nd, east of 60th Street. And most spent east of 42nd Street, \$3.5 billion. But yet, if you talk to OPS, our poverty rates went up. So history doesn't show just putting a project in north Omaha means jobs for my community. How is that reflected in this budget? It's not. So it's not that I want to say no to scholarships for UN-- University of Nebraska, I'm saying put more money into the Opportunity Grants. And if they can't have it, then they only have \$1 million, then we'll do \$1 million only to the university. I'm saying if Gering needs \$3.8, we'll look at Middle Loup Public Power irrigation, who has canal problems that can't get FEMA money. Look at West Point, who can't have drinking water. They have no drinking water. Their schools, kids go there and can't drink out of the faucet. So do I not care about the canal? No, I care. Match it over to West Point. Match it over to the other communities. But if I have to make a choice between them and the other, let's everybody start making choices line by line.

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: We're not going to make a Friday,--Friday deadline. Not gonna happen. And if we recess, we recess. And if I'm in the-- and I am in the higher or most at-risk category because of my health condition, I'm willing to stay. I'm willing to make sure this budget, I'm going to make sure that this body reflects the needs of the entire state of Nebraska and not increase the have-- the gap between the haves and have-nots. That's why I'm making this stand. I wasn't even going to do it on General File until everybody came over and told me not to do it. Obviously, you guys don't know me well enough. You make me dig in. You should have talked to Senator Linehan before you came over and told me, no, don't do this. We got to get the budget done. That just makes me say, well, this is an opportunity for me to stand up for my community and finally say something that needs to happen.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: And it's not a threat.

HUGHES: Senator Friesen, you're recognized.

FRIESEN: Thank you, Mr. President. So if we're going to be having fun the rest of the day, let's keep talking. I don't really care which way these amendments go, up or down. Doesn't matter to me. We can look at the incentive program, doesn't matter to me either. Could look at all the research in the country points to the incentives that don't work. They don't do what they're intended to do. Now, if we want to fix north Omaha, maybe we should target incentives to north Omaha. But incentives don't show that they bring jobs to a state. They don't show that they create jobs without costing more than they bring. And yet we continue to do the same thing over and over and double down. We've given up \$4.1 billion in incentives since 1986. Does that help north Omaha, does it help rural Nebraska? What could we have done with that money? How-- how could we-- where could we have our tax rate at where everybody would benefit? Why are we subsidizing housing? If the jobs out there and the companies that create those jobs aren't willing to pay their employees enough to live in a house, they don't deserve to have employees. We're helping their shareholders. We shouldn't have to subsidize these things. These are things that someone with a job should be able to afford. That was the whole idea of us back in the day of hard work and you work your way up into a bigger, better house or a nicer car. And now we subsidize everything. And I'm not saying we need to create a mandatory minimum wage of \$15. That's not what this is about. This is about companies that should take the responsibility of paying their employees enough that they can live there. We shouldn't be talking about affordable housing. It's just a cycle that's never going to end. What do we subsidize next? So we subsidize transportation so they can get to work. We keep going in a circle and it's-- we don't get anywhere. So, you know, we can talk about all of this. We got-- let's look at some wage or some-- some taxes. We got Loup County, average per capita tax collected income tax would be \$614 per capita in Loup County. Per capita, those same people are paying \$5,930 in property taxes. There is no income there, hardly, to pay that with. Talk about a poor county. Hayes County, \$348 per capita in state income taxes collected, \$5,827 per capita in property taxes. It's because we don't give them any money for the schools. It's all funded on property taxes, which don't determine wealth. It doesn't determine what kind of house you're living in. It doesn't determine you have ability to pay. You can be living in a real nice house and be on the verge of bankruptcy because they raised your property taxes based on your income. And yet we want to subsidize housing and yet we refuse to do property tax relief.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

HUGHES: One minute.

FRIESEN: It seems like property tax relief would subsidize housing. And yet we continually fight over how we're going to fund K-12. It's property tax relief. So people can afford to live in a house instead of buying it over and over and over again. So let's have a longer discussion. I want to talk some more about the canals and Loup County or the Loup canal. Let's talk about that. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Friesen. Senator Chambers, you're recognized and this is your third opportunity.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, to alert you all, I have some motions already drafted, and I'm not going to have to raise my voice today because all I'm going to do is take time. I could sing songs if I wanted to and you can't stop me. And you can walk out, I don't care. As long as that clock goes tick-tock, tick-tock then it's serving my purpose. I can speak slowly and deliberately or very rapidly, because here, due to a loophole, I am free. I am free. Senator Briese, I am free, and I'm going to exercise my freedom in the way you white people have shown us how freedom is exercised by those who have the power. You walk on those you have contempt for, but every one of you is able to stand up and do what I'm doing if you choose to do it. I don't bully people. I don't pick on people. But these white people are so silly in your state they will write to their editor about Senator Chambers bullies the Legislature. One black man, the descendant of people who were owned in the minds of those who had power over them. Nobody owned my people. They could treat us as though they did. One person cannot own another person, but I'm going to exercise my freedom. And maybe I'll look at you all as my white slaves, and I'll run everybody out of this Chamber. You don't need to stay here. This is not what you came here to listen to. So go, all of you. But I'm not going anywhere. This place, as I've told you, is named after me, Chambers. Chambers' chambers. You think your getting angry means anything to me? I love that because anger rests in the bosom of a fool, said the Bible. Tick-tock, tick-tock goes the clock on the wall. See the reason I like this situation is similar to when I travel around the country giving speeches. I spoke to an audience. My audience is not consisting of the people in this Chamber, but rather all of the people who watch the Legislature on public television. So that's my audience. I don't know whether they're watching or not. But if nobody is here, I'm going to take the time. I'm going to talk. And there will be nobody to call the question. And

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

I'm going to have the opportunity to mock you. How many of you all were here early in the session and I told you, when we get to the latter days, that's when the legislative session is delivered into my hands? Well, brothers and sisters, we're there now. And you don't like it. But I told you--

HUGHES: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --but you didn't believe me. So I have to demonstrate it to you. What is important to you white people shouldn't be important to me at all. But there are bills you've brought to help those who were damaged by the flood. And I supported them, and I use those opportunities to explain why you ought to look beyond your nose to other people who are of a different color. But you didn't. So now you just pay the piper. But this is not the end. Even if we go beyond the 60 days, there are enough of you to vote to extend the session so white people always have the last word and the ultimate power. White people fixed it so in January of next year, I will no longer be a part of this Legislature, period.

HUGHES: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. So, Senator Friesen, I have an amendment. I have two of them here, actually. One will say, the public power and irrigation districts to repair irrigation diversion structures that were-- that were destroyed by bridge or levee damage that occurred during '19-- 2019 flood event. And that will go to the-- the way I got it written, it can go to-- to the Loup Power District-- Middle Power District, and that would-- I have two different ones. One will take the 3.8 and put it there. And the other one would-- both of them would be able to draw down from it and they would share it equally. I'm not about eliminating the issue in Gering, I'm about let's make it work for everybody in Nebraska. How do we make it work for everybody in Nebraska? That voting on this budget makes me pick and choose, and I just want to make sure everybody in this body understands what I'm picking and choosing from. Earlier it was talked about about threats, and none of this is threats. But people have to realize is there are a lot of issues I stand down on. My first year was fighting for the land bank. If you talk to the people who are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

close to me, I was never comfortable with the land bank because I've seen it operate firsthand. And we brought an amendment to fix all that this year. But for two years, I still worked the floor getting it done because I think it was a broader policy issue that should be pursued by the state. I just think Omaha had an issue that no other-- actually, the way it was set up, no other-- whoever else had a land bank could even implement what Omaha had did. But I still worked it. In fact, I worked it two years on behalf of senator who prioritized it. Because there are levels of things that you can negotiate on and you're willing to deal with if they don't fundamentally change your core. But then there are issues that are before the body that fundamentally change how I feel about a bill. This is that issue. There are multiple things in this bill-- in this budget that I think create a bigger gap between rural versus urban. I mean, to say that I don't care about affordable housing when I was the critical vote my first year to keep that bill alive, I was the 33rd vote, is preposterous to me. That's like me saying you don't care about urban housing. I didn't say that, but I can tell you our budget reflects that. And I can tell you what happened on this floor to Senator Vargas's bills reflects that. So don't-- don't accuse me of not caring when that bill would have died twice. But I was the 33rd vote on-- on keeping that bill alive. So we can have talks, we can continue to talk. We can start going line by line through the budget, and I have no problem-- problem doing that. I didn't even bring up the issue at Peru State that I have, getting work force development partnerships for Corrections. I don't know why that's at Peru State. Why do we single out that to go to Peru State and start it last year and keep it funded when the fact of the matter is, is they're talking about building a new prison between Omaha and Lincoln. Maybe Grand Island, so we, we should be getting that population base from there, if that's what they want to do. I can go line by line through this budget and pick out things that I don't like, but most of the time I don't. But I've sat here for multiple years where we couldn't bring bills out of committees--

HUGHES: One minute.

WAYNE: --because they had a fiscal note. And now the first year we can, bills aren't coming out of committee because corporations, big contractors, and government, i.e. our Governor, decides they don't want them. But we're willing to spend a lot of money. We have in a budget, a property tax credit bill that hasn't even been to the floor yet. It's in our budget that we are setting aside dollars to a bill

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

that has not even come to the floor, and we're going to adopt it. So what happens if the bill dies? It just sits there. Then we'll come back and figure out what to do with it the next year or we'll retry it again and then our-- our Property Tax Relief Fund will go up. We have things line item in our budget that we have not even passed yet, nor have we even voted on one round.

HUGHES: Time, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 22nd.

HUGHES: Senator Chambers, you are recognized open on your bracket motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I should not tailgate on motions that other people offer, so I will undertake to provide my own self with opportunities to speak. Several times in Omaha, and many times around the country, tombstones in Jewish cemeteries have been toppled. All of the different faiths: Muslim, Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, whichever ones lived in a town where that happened, would immediately express outrage and ask what they could do. In Florida, there is a parking lot built over the remains of black people that were buried. In Louisiana, they're building a chemical plant, and it will demolish a cemetery where black people are buried. Where are the Jews? Where is anybody? You're worried about a stone being turned over, and the very remains of my people are being desecrated. And I'm supposed to act like you? If we are standing in a classroom and somebody picks up a desk and tells you to put your foot under it and they drop it and you say, ouch, I'll look at you like you're crazy. I'd say, what do you make all that noise for? You say, well, they dropped that desk on my foot and it hurt. I say, well, I don't feel anything. It doesn't hurt me. Then the white person would say, well, the desk is not on your foot. That's where you all are. If it doesn't affect you personally, it doesn't happen. Let me tell you what I had to do to get things done for my people. Hilton wanted to build a large hotel in downtown Omaha. And they wanted throwback money or whatever they call it. They got all kinds of different names to give white men, the big shots, to disguise the fact that they're looking for free money or don't want to pay their taxes. Well, they needed a certain number of votes on this floor to get that done. And in order to vote and have it done, it had to be done within a certain amount of time because there were rules then.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Senator Ashford carried the bill and I said, you're not gonna get this bill at all. So Senator Ashford thought and he thought, and he probably talked to those big shot white men. And somebody said, give him what he wants, and the him was me. And I said, you do all of this giving away for white people. So my community benefits from none of these projects that get that money. So this so-called turnback or throw-away money, I said you are going to have to give a percentage of that money to north Omaha, and then we added south Omaha or you're not gonna get anything for Hilton Hotel. And guess what happened? That money is still flowing into north and south Omaha now. Not by me standing up here and saying, please be nice and Christian and do the right thing. I had to play the game the way they understood it, and that's to deprive them of something they want. And I was in a position to do that, thanks to the rules of this Legislature, of which I'm a member because of a loophole. Don't you know that if they could keep me from ever coming to this Legislature in the first place, they would have done it? But since they couldn't keep me from coming here, they had to figure a way to get me out of here, not by way of voting. Senator Stinner and others talk about the process. White people just scrapped the process and they imposed term limits and stated it's to get rid of Senator Chambers. Because apparently he represents the wishes of his district to such an extent that no matter how much white people criticize him and called him stupid, they keep sending him back to the Legislature. Then all he does is bully the Legislature. One man bullies, at that time, 48 white people. I'm a bully because 48 of them can't handle me. So they changed their constitution. They enshrined me in the Constitution of Nebraska. Not by way of saying this is a black man who fought for freedom so we're going to put into the Constitution that rights cannot be withheld from people because of their race or color. No, they said we're going to change the system so that a black man like him cannot stay in it. That's America. That's democracy. That's representative democracy where people are supposed to have the right under the law to send whom they please. So white people say, that's right, but we're going to change the law. As we can change the rules anytime we want to, because we have the numbers and might makes right and white makes might, so white and might are together. And when you put might and white, it always equals right. So I have to find a way to function in a hostile environment. Learn your rules. So that's how I got some money for north Omaha and south Omaha. Not by reasoning with them and showing them that it was equitable, it was just, it was fair. That didn't work. So then I took a hammer of the kind that they use and I said, upside your head goes this hammer, and those white

people you want to help because they're big shots won't get anything. And the big shot white people said, give him what he wants. And that's how I got it. I didn't like what was happening in South Africa, where 80 percent of the people were black, 20 percent of them white, but the white people had the kill power and they enslaved black people, in effect. Couldn't even go on the street without a pass. You had to pull out a piece of paper in the country where you live and show it to some white person to show you had a right to walk down the streets of the country. And you're an indigenous person in that country, but you didn't own it because you didn't have the kill power. So I didn't like that. And I had to figure a way to reach all the way from a backward, racist state like Nebraska to help people who look like me on a far away continent. And they were dragged over here across an ocean and I had to reach from this side of the ocean where people like me were dragged against their will and changed to try to help free some of the people like me on the other side of that ocean who were enslaved in their own country by white people. So how would I do it? I couldn't get the Legislature to do it, or could I? If I couldn't outmuscle them, because there are too many of them, can I outsmart them? How can I outsmart them? Get into a game with them where they set the rules and beat them at their own game. So some old racist white guy gave the University of Nebraska \$3,000 or whatever the number of gold Krugerrands he had. Krugerrands, that's money from South Africa. And South Africa sold Krugerrands all over the world. They said every Krugerrand sold is another brick to reinforce the wall of apartheid. Apartheid is that separation that occurred in South Africa. So that white devil played right into my hands. There are white people in this Legislature concerned about the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: So here's what I did. I told those white people that when the budget comes up, just like a budget we're talking about today, I'm going to have the dollar value calculated that those Krugerrands would be worth. The university accepted them, and I'm going to cut that amount from the budget that UNL would have. How can one black man determine what's gonna be on a budget? There are ways, brothers and sisters. There are ways. And I'll wait until I'm recognized before I resume my comments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I was sitting here trying to think of why maybe some of you don't understand why this is so important. And then I thought back to our freshman year for the people who came in with me. Our freshman year, our budget took multiple days to get past the first round. Then it became a Speaker priority, a majority proposal, so we could move amendments around. And that was all over Title X. I hope people remember, I remember Senator Hunt actually sitting up in the top looking at me, making sure what are you going to do, Justin. I remember that, I remember that stare. But that was such an important issue for many of you in this body that you filibustered it for three days, made the Exec Board vote on it as a Speaker major proposal. That's how important the bill I have is for my community. That's how important the lack of housing, as I watch-- this will be \$17 million we give to rural in housing, \$18 million since I started. That's how important that is. Because my community needs it so bad. So I was there with many of you on that first round. So while we're sitting here, I want to go back two years and think of how many of you would have gave up that issue because of the coronavirus? How many of you would have let the budget go through on that issue because a week from now or two weeks from now we could possibly have an epidemic or a pandemic through Nebraska? It's already been called one worldwide, I'm saying in Nebraska. How many of you would have folded on that issue? So what I'm asking you to do, is if you wouldn't have folded on that issue, don't ask me to. And if you do fold on that issue, we can have that conversation. I'll explain it to you why it's so important to me. By helping me get LB720 and having some-- some things in LB720 for me, let's just be honest, that really does, that benefits my community, but that also benefits LB720. That benefits a vote. And I know my position in this body. My position in this body makes everybody upset because I am the 33rd on many things. My first year, people don't know this, on Senator Hilgers bill when I took that vote, do you know who ran-- who ran over and got in my face? Senator Chambers. Said that vote just hurt our community allowing guns to just do whatever they want in our community. I've caught it from every angle in this body, and I've played nice from every angle in this body. And some people even came to me and say, oh, we passed transit over the Governor's veto, over a veto last year. OK. But you know who that helps? Businesses. Yes, it helps my community by getting them jobs, but what sold it was the Chamber, not north Omaha. If that would have been north Omaha standing out there talking to you--

SCHEER: One minute.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: --it wouldn't-- it wouldn't have got a Governor override. The Chamber said we needed it and talked to many of you colleagues on the other side of the aisle. That's how I got the override. Let's be honest for once in this body. It wasn't cause how many times I went to Chadron. It wasn't because how many times I've been down to Lincoln and sat around and talked property taxes. It was a business decision. And I can make that same argument of why this budget is hurting the businesses in north Omaha. How does this budget help small businesses? How does our tax incentives help small businesses? And I'm talking about people who have less assets of \$1.3 million minus their personal primary residence. I'm not talking about \$10, \$20 million in assets and you have a lot of wealth and you have a small business.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, to continue with my story, which is true, of how a black man on this side of the ocean reached across an ocean to the continent from which his forebears were dragged in chains and enslaved and raped and murdered and tortured. How could I reach from way over here, separated by thousands of miles and hundreds of years in terms of time and help those black people who are black like me? So I decided to outsmart the white people. And I had arrived at the point where a racist had given Nebraska a certain number of gold Krugerrands, South Africa money, and it was to be used for training table or something at the university, an engineering school. I had insisted that they give the money back. Black students insisted. But the love of money is the root of all evil, and who cared about what black people's opinion was when there was money to build or to help build an engineering school? Went nowhere. That brought me to the Legislature. I had offered a resolution that would call on the state of Nebraska to withdraw all investment money it had from businesses doing business in or with South Africa. And naturally the resolution languished because white people stick together with white people whether those white peoples are Nazis, fascists, racists. They're all white and white clumps together with white. And there were white countries that help South Africa enslave black people. And Israel, Jews are not white people, they're grade X and brand X would-be white people. They helped the government of South Africa develop weaponry, develop what they call security forces, and then they want to tell the whole world how they were abused in Nazi Germany. But that I'll talk about maybe later in the day because I have plenty of time. We're going to go to 11:59

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

p.m., and I'm going to show you that I can take all of that time. I will not sit down. I will not get a drink of water. I need no food. I have meat to eat that you know not of. If Jesus can go into the wilderness 40 days and not eat or drink-- Jesus was different from human beings. You can go eight or nine days without food, but probably three days without water, but Jesus went 40 days. And by the way, I said this picture would be my prop. Long as you got the flags, this is my prop. And I'm gonna tell you a story about this guy. Several stories. This is a cat that I could have hung out with, if the tales they tell about him were true. And I'm gonna tell you some of those tales also. But I have other fish to fry before I get to that point. The Oma-- the Lincoln senators came to me and they said, isn't there something we can do to stop you from taking money from the university's budget. And you all might wonder, how could Chambers take money from the university budget when all that had to be done was get the votes? Well, at those-- in those days, UNL was not popular with the senators in Nebraska. See, I know where the weak points are when I'm dealing with white people. So if I put that motion up there, it would have been voted on--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and that money would have been taken out of the university's budget. Did you say time?

SCHEER: No, Senator. One minute.

CHAMBERS: OK. Thank you. I said I have a resolution, and reminded them of it, that would call on the Investment Officer of the state of Nebraska to withdraw all funds of the state that are invested from any company doing business in or with South Africa and to make a story that could be very long shorter, because I have other stories I want to tell, that was done. And the Investment Officer was against it, he was a racist. But it was done nevertheless. And guess what? That was written about by newspapers all over this country. But more important, by the biggest newspaper in South Africa, the Rand Daily Mail. And they talked about it being an ominous day in Nebraska for South Africa--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --because Nebraska, by adopting--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --my resolution-- thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, so we're going to spend some time on the budget, I think we should talk about the budget and read what's in the budget. I would like to see if Senator Friesen will yield to a question.

SCHEER: Senator Friesen, would you please yield?

FRIESEN: Yes, I would.

WAYNE: Senator Friesen, can you explain to me the irrigation and canal situation in your district-- or maybe not your district, but you might be familiar with?

FRIESEN: Part of-- part of it is in my district. It's called the Loup Power District, Power and Irrigation District. And so I can summarize a little bit. They have an irrigation and a power generation facility. They're located most of it probably in Columbus, but it trails off into Nance County around Genoa. But they have a-- it's called the Loup Power Canal. And they suffered, you know, their early estimates are around \$20 million in damage. I'm sure that number is probably less, initial estimates everywhere were always high. But they-- they'll be eligible for some FEMA money, I think, the way I've been hearing it now. But as far as Nebraska emergency management, they were not given any money there. They were-- usually a service would-- if FEMA gives you a 75 percent, NEMA would give you 12.5 percent and you would pay 12.5 percent. And so they had a lot of damage, but they don't qualify for NEMA funding evidently and so they'll have to come up with the difference between whatever FEMA may give them and what actual damages there were. But it's kind of a similar situation. It was a flood damage, it wasn't just a collapse of a tunnel that maybe years-- years of lack of maintenance, whatever. This was actually from the flood damage that that happened.

WAYNE: Thank you. And the reason I bring that up is because I was doing some research on the Gering collapse and to my environmental people, not too far from there there was a lot of fracking going on. So maybe that was the cause for the canal. We're gonna-- we're gonna

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

bail them out to a collapse. So I want to talk-- maybe Senator Linehan will yield to a question.

SCHEER: Senator Linehan, would you please yield?

LINEHAN: Oh, certainly,

WAYNE: Senator Linehan, you have dealt with or at least know a little bit about dual enrollment. Do you know of any inequities when it comes to dual enrollment across our system?

LINEHAN: I did, I think, a year ago or more write a letter to the community colleges as to how this all worked. And I was somewhat skeptical that it was-- I think every school does it a little differently, which does concern me about if it is equitable across the board.

WAYNE: And when you say some schools do it differently, some schools actually require the students or the household to pay for their dual enrollment, is that correct?

LINEHAN: Yes, that is correct. Some pay. Some, it's free. It is a real smorgasbord, from what I can tell. Now, I haven't checked on it this year, but I've never got a very clear answer. And one of my thoughts was, if we're going to do this, we should definitely have some kind of standardization of how it is paid for.

WAYNE: And then there's also an online university that the University of Nebraska or-- or Metro, one of them have, that they can also dual enroll, but they have to pay for it, I believe.

LINEHAN: I think there's actually two or three programs. The University of Nebraska has a high school. It's been around since like the 1918s, when they had children spread across the state that didn't have a high school. It's actually used by people all over the world. And yes, I think if students use it, they have to pay for that. I haven't seen a program where the school helps pay for those. And as you and I have talked before, too, there's a question if a senior is basically spending most of their day at the community college, then should we be paying for the senior--

SCHEER: One minute.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

LINEHAN: --senior to be in a high school and paying for him to be at the community college.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you, Chairwoman Linehan. Colleagues, I can go line by line and call pretty much everybody out in this room on conversations we had that aren't necessarily secret and why this budget is bad. We're given a million dollars. I'm not saying the whole budget, talking about some key areas. I thank yeoman's work of the Appropriations Committee of putting the budget together, but when you look at this dual enrollment of a million dollars, that goes to the community college, and yet there are high school kids who have to pay for it and some families who can't afford it. How does that fit into the dual enrollment? Again, we're creating a bigger gap between the haves and have-nots. But we just put things in the budget. And yes, community college come and talk if they need it, but this should go to the high school kids. This should go to TEEOSA.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I had a feeling that I would be next. But and it's so good to spend this time with you all. Seriously, I'm enjoying myself. I am what you would call a loner or a solitary individual. But every now and then, you like to break the mold and do something that gives a little variety to your life. But as I was saying, the Rand Daily Mail wrote an editorial and talked about it being an ominous day because this resolution was the first official action taken by any U.S. state to withdraw money that had been invested in companies doing business in or with South Africa. And it would start a bandwagon effect, meaning other states would do it. And those racists had tested the water and they knew what would happen. And that, in fact, is what happened. Other states followed suit. I got letters from senators and representatives from other states asking how I did it. And I explained the way I did it and said they wouldn't have exactly the same circumstances, but they might find a way to leverage something into the ability to do what I had done. It wound up with a number of states doing it. Newspapers wrote about it. And I'm gonna bring some articles around and show you and you can throw them away, but they mention how Nebraska was the first state, picture of me, the only black man in the Legislature. And you know why the Rand Daily Mail said it was so ominous? Because Nebraska is a Midwestern conservative state. But they didn't add, and the one who got it done was a black man. And he was the only black man in an all white

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Legislature. They left that out because maybe there were black people in South Africa who could read and they might say, a black man in America did this by himself? And they're 80 percent of the population comprises us, 20 percent white people. If each one of us took a pledge to kill one white person, we'd run out of white people before all of us could carry out our pledge. So they didn't want Africans to see that, just like these white racist Christian slaveholders had what they called a slave Bible. And everything that related to freedom or slaves fighting or the Jewish exodus, or any of those things, they cut all that out of the Bible and gave the slaves the part that says slaves obey your master and all the other tripe that they even give us today. That's what white Christians do, and that's why their religion is not worth the paper it's written on. It's not even good enough to be used for toilet paper because what toilet paper wipes away has more dignity than the pages on which Christianity is written. Do I make myself clear? I was invited to the United Nations to speak. They had a committee against apartheid, which I addressed. But then there was a bigger assembly that I addressed, and they had a table in the back of the room on a raised platform and all of the politicians who had managed to get anti-apartheid legislation--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --enacted were sitting on that table. And when I began to talk, as happens because I know how to speak, everybody had earphones, I guess, to translate into their language what was being said. Pretty soon all the heads were turned and they were looking back. And since I have plenty of time later on, I'll be able to tell you some of the things that I said. So the U.N. was where I had gone. I don't know if anybody from the Nebraska Legislature ever was invited to the U.N. before. And I'll tell you other places I was invited to, like the White House, or to testify before Lyndon Johnson's riot commission. Just a few little things like that. And how I was able-- it wasn't a snub, but to tell the French embassy that I couldn't keep an appointment that they wanted me to have where they were going to have a state dinner because I had managed to get Nebraska to abolish the death penalty.

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

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: Thank you. Senator Chambers, I don't know if you want to file another motion or I can. We can-- we can keep having the conversation. Will Senator Moser yield to a question?

SCHEER: Senator Moser, would you please yield?

MOSER: Yes, I would.

WAYNE: Yeah, Senator Moser, I know the-- I just found out from you that the other part of Loup Power District is in your district. Can you provide the body with an update on the canal issues and the possible money issues?

MOSER: Yes. The canal starts in Senator Friesen's district, where the water enters the canal from the Loup River, and then it comes down the canal and is fed into the power plant in Columbus, generates electricity. That's the short story of it. And when the flood came, it washed out the head gates, and water was flowing from the river into the canal and spilling out onto the highway. And the emergency repair was just to kind of sandbag that, keep the water from undermining the highway. Since that time, they're working on funding, trying to get funding from FEMA. And the Nebraska Emergency Management didn't offer the 12.5 percent of the repair funding that some agencies would qualify for. Since they were a political subdivision, NEMA felt that they weren't eligible for that. So they've done \$6 million roughly in emergency repairs, and they've got the canal up and running. The repairs aren't necessarily permanent or done to the highest of standards. They just did what they had to do to kind of like field expedient repairs. They did what they had to do to get it to run. And-- and if they get 75 percent of what they spend from the Federal Emergency Management, they could wind up, the whole project could be \$20 million. They could wind up paying 25 percent of that, so it would be around \$5 million.

WAYNE: Around \$5 million, thank you. And this budget doesn't have anything set aside for that \$5 million, does it?

MOSER: Not to my knowledge, no.

WAYNE: And well, to keep that-- how important is that canal to the operations of your district? To your people?

MOSER: Well, it doesn't generate a huge percentage of the electricity consumed in our district, but it-- it was used to kind of shave peaks

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

when electoral usage got really high and they needed to shore up the grid to keep the voltage up. They would run it just to shave peaks. Now they run it quite a bit more because they belong to the-- I think it's the Southern Power Pool, and they kind of regulate how it's used.

WAYNE: Thank you. Colleagues, again, we have a potentially \$5 million that is real. They're not sure if their-- their levee is going to hold up to FEMA standards, which would require more repair, more cost. They've already repaired some of it, but they're not being reimbursed anything by this body. Again, my question is, why is one more important than the other? I'm not saying we should remove the money, although that's what this motion does, what FA110. What I would rather see is the committee or somebody introduce an amendment to say we'll match Loup City, and I have the amendment right here with my name on it. I can scratch out my name and we can-- we can do that. But that's what I'm talking about. I think what's good for Wyoming and good for one senator's district should be good for somebody else's district, especially when you're talking about a community that needs it. Both community needs it. And I would argue that one is a little more populated, might need a little bit more versus the vegetables, fruits, corns, beans, "chickapoo"-- right, "chickapeas," "chickapeas." We were talking about that the other night. I think "chickapoos," I mean, "chickapeas," that might need to be grown.

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: That's my point. Next time around, I will ask Senator Ben Hansen some questions about West Point. So I'm going to give him time to call city officials and get an update there. But I think it's important to everybody in the state of Nebraska to have the ability to have drinking water. And I do think, unfortunately, they have the ability to be taxed on their drinking water, even though I don't agree with that. Senator Lindstrom is not here, he might have appreciated that. Might not have. But I have another bid that goes at 2:00, so I'm going to miss that one. My employees won't be too happy that I'm missing bids. So at least I'll tell them I fought for our community, and maybe they'll give me a pass and not quit. But we'll be here, I guess and we'll go from there. Hopefully you'll introduce that amendment, Senator Chambers, and I really appreciate it. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne and Senator Moser. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Chambers, you're welcome to close.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. And, Senator Wayne, you don't even have to bother your mind with writing amendments or motions, I'll take care of that. You're doing a good enough job. And let me handle this mundane work, because I have a book. And in this book is the budget. And that budget has a committee amendment. And the committee amendment is to replace everything in the original bill. And that committee amendment has 73 sections, I think, so I've got at least 73 motions already made for me and all I have to do is change the number of the section that I intend to strike. But if you want to really see what I can do without having to offer a motion such as bracketing or recommitting, multiply 73 by 2, because after the vote against each one of those motions to strike, then I'll be not voting and I will immediately move to reconsider. And I can easily take us to 11:59 by myself. I'm accustomed to doing things by myself, but I have excellent assistance from a much younger man. And I appreciate that because it shows you all that when I was made, the mold was not broken. It might have been reconfigured a bit, marked in such a way as to make each of us distinguishable from the other. But be that as it may, I'm going to continue. Not only did other states call for divestment, the United States government was behind Nebraska and did the same thing behind Nebraska. I don't mean supporting, lagging behind Nebraska. And there are a number of things that I did. Former Senator Warner, whom that Chamber across the Rotunda is named after, used to point out that Senator Chambers has offered legislation to help everybody, and not just making history in Nebraska, but nationally and internationally. And he'd give examples like what was called the "Bones Bill", where it called for the repatriation of the remains of Native Americans found in museums, the drawers of school, I guess anthropology departments. Those remains had to be returned to the tribe, if that could be determined. And if not, then to a tribe willing to take those remains and bury them appropriately, rather than making them spectacles and objects to be hung up in museums or put on walls and other things. Nebraska did it first. Other states did it, then the federal government did it. So you all have somebody in your midst who did things that put Nebraska on the map in a way nobody else had ever done and probably will never do again. And you don't appreciate it because you do everything you can to defeat the things that I try to do that would help everybody. But that's the way it goes. That was South Africa. Years passed and a smallish gentleman named Tutu became an archbishop in South Africa, and he visited

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Nebraska. The visit was for-- to America, but he wanted to visit Nebraska--

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --because Nebraska was the first state to call for divestment. That did in fact start a bandwagon effect that led to the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa. And they didn't tell him that the senator who did that was still in the Legislature, but UNL chose not to invite him to Bishop Tutu's talk. And I think Nebraska officials might have thought I would explain how I had to go about getting it. An Associated Press reporter named Ed Howard wrote an article about it and titled it: The Snub That Occurred. And Associated Press articles go all over the country, and people couldn't believe it. That in the state where the man was living who had led to it was snubbed by the university and not invited to the talk--

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: You said time?

HILGERS: Time, Senator, yes.

CHAMBERS: Thanks. I'll-- that was my close. I'm going to ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

HILGERS: There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 15 ayes, [SIC] 3 nays, Mr. President, to place house under call.

HILGERS: 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 Pansing Brooks, the house is under call, please return to the Chamber. Senator Lathrop, please check in. Senator McCollister, please check in. Everyone is now account-- Pansing Brooks, please check in. Everyone is accounted for. The roll-- a roll call vote in regular order has been requested. The question before the body is the adoption of the motion to bracket. Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Arch.

ARCH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FRIESEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Geist.

GEIST: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Excuse me, Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lindstrom. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lowe. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Moser.

MOSER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Quick.

QUICK: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Stinner.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

STINNER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Walz.

WALZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: No.

CLERK: Voting no. 0 ayes, 26-- or 36 nays, Mr. President.

HILGERS: The motion is not adopted. I raise the call. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Yes, I do, but I'm going to read some items, Mr. President, if I may. New resolutions. LR344 is by Senator Kolterman. Pursuant to its introduction, I have a communication to the Speaker directing it be referred to standing committee for purposes of conducting a public hearing. LR345, by Senator McDonnell. It's an interim study resolution. Senator Crawford, an amendment to LR790 to be printed. And Enrollment-- I'm sorry, Health and Human Services Committee reports LB1002 is reported to General File with amendments. And Senator La Grone, an amendment to LB1008. Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to reconsider the vote with respect to the bracket motion.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I often don't smile in this place, but today I find myself smiling in spite of myself. I want to talk to you about other things. I have touched on what I said was called the "Bones Bill" by people. There was a man named Robert Perego, and he'd been trying to find somebody

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

to carry this legislation. There were people in this state, one of them was a member of this Legislature, who had a rib bone of a Native American on display on the wall of his office. Many people had these Native American remains, and dealt with them in that fashion. The university may have had some in drawers in the archaeological department. Museums had them on display. And this bill would have mandated that all such remains would no longer be handled in that fashion. Because it was aspirational, the first attempt when these remains were recovered would be to give them to the family of the deceased, which didn't often happen, maybe never. But then the tribe of which that person was a member, and it couldn't always be determined and under those circumstances, it would be a matter of any tribe that's recognized as legitimate. Not like Elizabeth Warren. Some white person wants to say, I'm Native American. And that would stand because white people can deal with nonwhite people how every way they want to and if it's convenient or it titillates to say you're a member of one of the, quote, other races, you could do it. But Donald Trump called her out, but he made a disparaging reference to all Native Americans by doing so, called her Pocahontas. Using that means to embarrass Elizabeth Warren. She wind up-- wound up having to acknowledge she was not Native American, and she apologized and met with some living Native Americans and apologized. And being the gracious people they were, they accepted it. But nevertheless, it would seem that a bill like that was so reasonable, so decent, so in accord with the religious concepts and even the philosophical holdings of people, that it could just go across the floor, but that did not happen. There was a fella whose name was Hanson, H-a-n-s-o-n, who fought this bill tooth and nail, but we overcame him. And one of the things he did to show how low-down he was, he had a large picture in his office of a nude white woman. And guess what he had done with it? He punched a hole which would have been behind the nipple in the picture. Then you know what he did? He pasted the picture on his wall. And guess what protruded from that hole where the nipple was? The little switch button that turned the lights off and on. So in a sense, whenever he turned the lights off and on, he was caressing this woman's nipple. And when I found out about it, I publicized it. And they wound up ultimately getting rid of him. But the bill was enacted into law. There was a senator here named Bernice Labeledz. And for some reason, she opposed the bill. And I tried to talk to her, tried to explain to her, and nothing worked. So one day on the floor, I decided to do what I tried to do, and that's embarrass her. I said, Senator Labeledz, you're a Catholic? Yes. Are there Catholics who when they die

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

and are buried, will have their rosary buried with them? Yes. Do you know of people who might even want a piece of jewelry buried, such as a favorite ring? Yes. I said, how would you feel if this were you and you were buried and you had your rosary and you had a ring on your finger and somebody was aware of that, so in the dead of the night, like Burke and Hare, those famous grave robbers from England, and by the way, they robbed graves to get bodies to give to doctors so that they could dissect them and teach themselves and medical students about the practice of medicine. I usually will digress and try to improve their education along the way. I said, and they open this grave, they pried the lid off your coffin, and they took your rosary and they cut that finger off to take the ring because they wanted to keep them as artifacts, how would you feel? And guess what happened? Suddenly, wham, all the lights went on in Senator Labeledz's head and in her heart and she said, I understand. It took that. Sometimes you have to use different methods from those that work with most people, tailor your methods so that they apply to this particular one. And she then supported the bill. She didn't think that graves should be desecrated. She didn't think that the remains of any dead people ought to be dug up and displayed and the bill passed. There was a guy named John Merrick and he had tumors that grew on his skull and his face and skull became misshapen and he became known as the Elephant Man. And he had a hood made to cover his head and an eye hole so that he could see. And a movie was made about him called The Elephant Man. There are side stories to all these things. Michael Jackson wound up purchasing the skeleton of John Merrick, the Elephant Man, and he took it to that place called Wonderland or whatever you call that place where he had animals and rides and whatnot, and those bones were put on display there. But in the movie, it showed how John Merrick was treated like a freak and put in a circus sideshow, and he was terribly abused. The other freaks, as they were called, were the only ones who would show him any understanding. Some helped him escape from the circus, and that was in England. And he had this hood that he wore and he tried not to go out in public. But one day he was walking through an area near a train station and people who saw him shuffling the way he walked with a shuffling gait, that hood frightened people or something did. But they would part in the same way the Red Sea parted from Moses to let the children of Israel escape from Egypt. And these little children, as little children will do, did some things that were very cruel. So they began to throw rocks at him and chase him. And I'm giving this to the best of my recollection. So Merrick began to move

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

as fast as he could. He moved like that mummy, he dragged one leg, but he could move faster. So as he was running--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --he bumped into a little girl and she fell. And has happened in the story of Frankenstein, where a little girl was accidentally killed and they blamed the monster, as he was called. His name was Adam, and they hunted him. And he said, beware, lest you make me the monster that you say I am and that's exactly what happened. But Merrick was being hounded by these little boys. And when he bumped into the little girl and she fell, that brought all these adults into the fray. And they began to chase him, and he moved as rapidly as he could. And as the mob was about to catch him, he came to a building that had a sloping driveway. It was like one of these ports that a truck would go down into and unload products. And when he got to the bottom, his back was against the wall. And all of these people started coming toward him. And when they had him surrounded, there was no way out.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, Senator Hansen asked me just to wait a little bit before I talk to him, and I'm going to talk to him here about what's going on in West Point. I know that, pre-- I think some of the issues predated the flood. But again, if we can give \$500,000 to the Daugherty Institute, which looks at water and water sustainability, we should be able to make sure that-- what I am passing out, and what we'll start having conversations about for me is what I consider-- erase the LB number. That's my number, that my bill is stuck in committee. But let's talk about the budget and how it relates to these red areas. These are some of our hardest-hit areas. Now, you think my bills that I continue to introduce and promote for Omaha, besides the transit, which even then we even included Fremont in that, to build the transit authority for again, economic development. But when I talk about north Omaha, I have said over and over and over the issues in north Omaha, the poverty in north Omaha are no different than the poverty in rural Nebraska. Our symptoms are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

different. We have a little more violence. Rural has meth. We have a different drug. We can keep going back and forth, but the issue of poverty is the same. So what this represents in these maps, and we're going to spend some time talking about what we could be doing in hypothetical worlds and let's looking at the budget and see what we should be doing, these are our hardest-hit areas. This is 150 percent of the state average unemployment and 20 percent poverty. Again, 150 percent of state on average unemployment and 20-- 20 percent poverty. These are the areas we are leaving behind. Now, it just so happens, if I were to go in most of these communities, you'll see poverty. Hence the definition of how we got here, 150 percent unemployment, average unemployment, of the state average unemployment and 20 percent poverty. So when I look at priorities for this state, I use this map. If you look at my bills, even to extremely blighted, extremely blighted was actually 200 percent poverty, I mean, 200 percent the average unemployment and 20 percent poverty. Even un-- extremely blighted had areas in Fremont, Grand Island, Gering or Scottsbluff, just like this. See, I can't use race to target things because of a constitutional amendment that this body passed, because we don't want to provide corrective action. We don't want to have to pay for the injustices that this body had did. So we passed a constitutional amendment to not allow for that. So I have to use different ways. And the only benefit of segregation, because Omaha is one of the most segregated cities in the country, the only benefit of segregation across our state is I can target things using poverty. So what is this budget doing for Thurston County? What is this budget doing for South Sioux City? Where are we targeting incentives and funds? I know we have an incentive amendment that will go along these same red lines or red drawings, but what about the rest of the billion dollars we spend at the state? Omaha, Dodge County, you look at that whole big census track right there. That's along, I believe, partly along a river, some nice, nice land right there that we can't get developed--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: --for various reasons. Look at Lancaster County. Folks, we got poverty across this state. And if you don't know, there's been an announcement UNL is going to distant learning for the rest-- or a couple more weeks past spring break. Wes-- Nebraska Wesleyan too? OK. So maybe the rest of the semester I'm hearing, but you go check your Internet. Hall County, poverty. Adams County, poverty. Buffalo County, poverty. Lincoln County, poverty. Scotts Bluff, poverty. We have poverty across the state, and it's time this budget starts reflecting

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the entire state's poverty and affordable housing problems, not just rural Nebraska.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: Thank you.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And in the same way that I'm recognized, they often introduce me as a man who needs no introduction, then they give me an introduction. That's the way people do things. But anyway, I'm really enjoying myself today. It gives me the chance to put some things on the record that have not been put there before. I was talking about John Merrick. Old people remember what we want to remember. We forget what is convenient to forget. But don't sell old people short, because they were where you are, but you haven't gotten where we are yet. And if you're like me, you continue to learn all of your life. Forty years old would be old to those young pages. But let's say when I reached 40 years old, I stopped learning. You know what I would be right now at 82 years old? I'd be an 82-year-old 40-year-old man. So I wanted to keep learning. And I do. But at any rate, John Merrick was against this wall and that crowd was descending on him. They were screaming and hollering. And one man came up and he pulled the hood off and when they saw his face, they were horrified. And for a second, they stopped as though they were paralyzed. And that was when John Merrick took advantage of that pause. When everybody was quiet, the screaming, the threats were no longer heard. And you know what John Merrick said? And you could hardly understand him. I am a human being. I am a human being. And when he said that, everybody fell back. Suddenly the only human being in that whole assemblage was the one treated like a subhuman. And it was this subhuman who had to remind them of the humanity that they all shared with him, but which they were throwing aside. And that's how John Merrick survived. Whereas, maybe that mob would have turned into what they are when they went after a black man, they might have taken him out and lynched him. But he was able to make an appeal. So I guess it was one of those situations of nature giving her child a method for surviving in a very hostile environment. Mother Nature is paradoxical. But you don't fool with Mother Nature. I want to talk about something that was of great interest to me for a different reason. I don't like America's game, which they say baseball is. And I was going bring a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

bill that in Nebraska, a baseball game could last no more than two innings. And if at the end of two innings, nobody hits one, then they flip a coin and the best three out of five would win, and it would be against the law to play a baseball game that went more than two innings. The most boring thing I ever saw, but I didn't offer it. The World Series is supposed to be something very important. I don't know why everything that happens in America is the world. Two American teams play each other. And in the last World Series, the Houston Astros, I think that's the name of the team, cheated. They won by cheating. It was established they cheated, but they were allowed to keep the fruits of their cheating. And yet adults tell little children, cheaters never prosper--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --but if you're the Houston Astros, you will prosper, and they did. And you know what the league said? Nobody who is involved in the cheating will be punished. Nobody will be involved-- who was involved in the cheating will be punished and all of the other teams were outraged. And when I'm recognized, I'll continue this story. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: OK. Thank you. Just trying to start having some conversation about this map right here and talk about poverty. Is Senator Friesen in, in the house, can he yield to a question?

WILLIAMS: Senator Friesen, would you yield?

WAYNE: Senator Friesen, I'm gonna let you look at the map that I handed out and look at Hall County and if you can tell me that's your district. In the meantime, I'll ask a really short question of Senator--

WILLIAMS: Senator Friesen, would you yield?

FRIESEN: I would.

WAYNE: So Hall County, I think that's your district according to this handy-dandy picture map that Senator Halloran handed out a long time ago. If it isn't, you can still answer the question. But if it is, I'm

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

trying to find out if you can tell me a little bit about this area and what do you think will improve the poverty situation in that area.

FRIESEN: We're still trying to find Hall County. I must have missed it. I do have a little piece in-- well, there we are. OK, Hall County. Looking at the map, it's hard to tell exactly if that's in my district or in Senator Quick's. But I wish I had a little more detailed map.

WAYNE: Well, just if you can answer the question of what do you feel, if there is poverty in your area, would help eliminate or reduce some of that poverty?

FRIESEN: Oh, there's-- there's definitely poverty in the-- in around Hall County. I won't-- I don't know that there's, right now, that there's a need for jobs. I think they're looking for people. When I've talked to the Chamber of Commerce in Grand Island, they've mentioned more times than not that they're trying to do more in the work force development and trying to fill jobs that are currently there rather than really focus so much on recruitment of creating jobs.

WAYNE: So when you think of work force development, what would you like to see in some kind of bill or package? Whether you've introduced a bill on it, just what-- what do you think helps your area?

FRIESEN: Well, I think number one is we have to get K-12 students ready for the work force. There's some students who don't want to go to school meet-- after, they want to work. And that's what a lot of companies are doing, is they, they recruit kids now already in high school and then they pick out the-- what they feel are the best in the-- of what they're looking for. And they're willing to train them. And so there's the partnership now between, I think, between the community college there and businesses. And they have a career pathways institute that they've-- they're working on there. So those are the things that have finally, I think, allowed some kids who will not go to a four-year college to go into the work force, I think, quicker and do something that they enjoy.

WAYNE: Thank you. Senator Brandt. I know, I didn't see any red areas in this area, but I do recall from a different map, Saline County had some poverty. It was around-- it had one or the other. So this map represents 150 percent above the average unemployment or-- and 20 percent poverty. But I know you had an area that was one or the other,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

so it's still poverty. What do you feel would resolve or help lower your poverty rates?

WILLIAMS: Senator Wayne, would you like Senator Brandt to yield?

WAYNE: Yes.

WILLIAMS: Would you yield, Senator Brandt?

BRANDT: Yes, I would.

WAYNE: So did you hear the question or do you need me to repeat it?

BRANDT: Which part of the question?

WAYNE: What-- what would help your community reduce poverty in your community?

BRANDT: That's a good question. I think in the rural areas, you see just as much poverty as you do in a lot of the state. And while my district is very rural, 10 percent of my district is Hispanic and primarily around Crete. And you have a very vibrant community there. And it's-- it's-- it's the Hispanic community is-- is in Crete--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

BRANDT: --to help on the meatpacking. But there's a lot of poverty associated with that also. And I think it sort of starts with the housing. I think any housing in the rural areas is a really good thing because that helps what Senator Friesen was saying about community colleges. I think if-- if English as a second language is-- is critical to that specific community. Whereas, when you go to our other towns like maybe Fairbury or Hebron or Geneva, it's not as apparent. They don't have the immigrant population that you see. So in the rural areas, and I've lived in other areas of the state, it-- it generally breaks down into those two concerns, is that you have an immigrant population that maybe works at a meatpacking plant and the things that go with that. And then you have the-- just the standard core poverty that you see in some of these communities. And some communities are worse than others because they've lost a lot of their manufacturing and good jobs. And I would say--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

BRANDT: Good jobs.

WAYNE: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne, Senator Brandt, and Senator Friesen. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, as you read off that list, I felt I was in pretty auspicious company. I want to talk now about something that I told you happened and it was in connection with baseball. Houston Astros cheated, and I'm not gonna tell you how they did, but they stole signals from the pitcher so that the batter would know what kind of ball was to be thrown and it was more likely that the batter could adjust and hit it. Nobody was punished by the league. Now, when black man with the National Football League took a knee, as they called it, during the playing of the national anthem, Bush, I mean, Trump was offended and so was Peter Ricketts after he saw Trump was offended. And Trump sent Pence to an NFL game so that when the players took a knee, Pence could walk out. And that's what happened. So they used taxpayer money to fly Pence to that game so that he could walk out. And nobody, no white people complained. And you know what? I don't use foul language, I don't use vulgar language, except when I'm quoting your president, your Christian president, whom the fundamentalists support. He said about Colin Kaepernick, who, by the way, had been adopted by white people, that's where he got that last name. Trump talked about how horrible it was, and he said: If the son of a bitch does it-- oh, you all looked up. You didn't look up when your president said it. I'm gonna say it again, because I don't think you heard what I said. I was quoting your president. He said: If that son of a bitch takes a knee, he should be fired. Now, he didn't call those people with the Houston Astros who cheated in the World Series, America's game, he didn't call them son of a bitches. He didn't say anything. That's what white people do and you all elected him. He's your president, the president of all the white people. And that's what you've got. Compare him to the dignity that President Obama always showed. And Trump hated him, said he wasn't even an American. Now, he can say that about me because I know I'm not an American citizen. I know that and I explained why the other day. But I watch things that white people do and I listen to what they say. And that's all that I'll say about baseball, but I have other things that I definitely want to talk about. I had said that I would talk about-- let me get my prop up here so that if somebody objects to a prop before I remove my prop, all these flags and other props on these desks will be removed

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

too. And I'll tell brother Jesus, brother Jesus, they can't make me get you out of here unless they get rid of what they got too. Who was this? I'm not asking you to answer. You see a depiction of a man who has what could be called a corona or thorns around his head. Oh, you think about coronavirus, huh?

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Well, Jesus was wearing a corona. Not my, my, my, my, my, my, my, my corona. That was "My Sharona." But I will have to wait until I get more time to give you a little rundown on this man. I've got so much I can talk about and I intend to do it. You said one minute, Mr. President?

WILLIAMS: Thirty-five seconds, Senator.

CHAMBERS: All right. Then I'll just stand here until my 35 seconds elapse. And when he says time, I'm going to show you how much I play by the rules, even if I'm in the middle of saying something and it's something that I deem very important. If he says that word, and what is that word?

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: You freed me. Thank you.

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

WAYNE: Thank you. You know what was interesting, I was going to ask Senator Moser a question, but let me ask you a question to this body. If you have to think about the same things that I have to think about in this body. My first year I came here and everybody wanted me on Education or Judiciary because I was on the school board, knew a lot about TEEOSA, still do, and Judiciary because of my background in criminal law and civil law. But I have to-- had to make a conscious decision not to go on Judiciary. I had to make a conscious decision not to go on Judiciary because I felt it was extremely important for my community not to see two African-American males clash. I served with Senator Chambers on the Learning Community and we were pretty much in lockstep but I knew when I got down here we were-- we had different opinions on many issues. But how many of you have to come into this body and think about how you act to a colleague because of how important the reflection is back home? Because not too often do

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

they get to see African-American males disagree and disagree in a way that are cordial. And those who will recall over three years, Senator Chambers and I had disagreed on two of my priority bills to appoint in one committee exced, he told anybody that would vote for it he would-- he would kill all their bills. But we sat down and we worked, and we never let it bleed out to the floor because it was that important for our community. That's the burden we carry on our backs every day. See when I speak, I speak for every black male, damn near in America. It's really, really interesting the pressure that-- that comes with that. And I can't speak for Senator Vargas, but when he speaks some of you think that's how every Latino feels. And it makes us choose our words very carefully. We have to be conscious of every word that comes out of our mouth. And if you didn't think I've been thinking about this since the beginning of session and that all the relationships that I may or may have not built may be burning today, I have. I had to consciously think about maybe the next four years not getting anything done. Not everybody else has that pressure. I only seen this body act that way towards two people. And I'm talking two people before, or since I was be-- even before this body, because I was just a-- a political junkie and I would actually watch this during the day. I've only seen bills die over personalities, two people over and over. Senator Chambers, and he's going to get upset, so I'm gonna put a pause between when I say the next person, and Tyson Larson. In the last 10 years, they are the only two people, and I put that pause there because I still got to work with Senator Chambers for a little bit longer, of deals-- bills would just die because they introduced them. And I know that could happen after today.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: Nobody else feels that pressure. But I know that, because I watched it happen to somebody else who is fighting for the same community. And everybody is nodding their head because what I said about those two are right. That's a lot of pressure. So you have to ask yourself, am I really willing to risk it all? I am, over a \$3 billion project in my community, because there will be no other opportunity according to Kolterman, according to state officials, like this economic development project in my community. There will be no other project like this throughout the state that could fundamentally transform what we're doing in this state. So, yes, this is it. Every budget--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: --every bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Vargas, you're recognized. Senator Vargas is not on the floor. We'll take him out of the queue. Senator Wayne, you punched in, but you've already spoken three times. No one wanting to speak, Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your reconsideration motion.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, and I'm gonna teach you all a lesson about the rules when I get through. There's a verse in the "Bibble" that says, train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not soon depart from it. Or a variation that people use, when he is old, it will not soon depart from him. The point is, children are taught things and some things, quote, take, unquote, more with some children than others. You know why I stepped out of here? My mother taught me manners and she taught me, don't ever blow your nose in front of other people. I see people blowing their nose all the time. But my mother, whom I respected greatly, and she's been gone for some time, taught me things that I don't depart from. That's how much impact she had on me. And it could have a bearing on why I speak so often on behalf of women, even women who are offended by it. Makes me no difference. There was a guy in a poem and somebody on this floor, no, I don't see him now, but he's been here, not a member of the Legislature. He was a galley slave. He said, and I'm gonna try to remember it and get it as correct as I can. My very chains and I were friends. So much of a long communion tends to make us what we are that I relinquish my chains with a mournful sigh. He was being freed, but his chains had been-- become a part of his life. So maybe there are chains that connect me to my mother. But at any rate, I'm going to do and say what my conscience tells me I should do and say. And what I'm doing today doesn't reach the level of conscience. This is just something that needs to be done because of the kind of environment I'm in, the kind of association, organization, body that comprises the Legislature. And I'm prepared to go on and on and on, and I shall. But I will wait until next time to get into some "Bibble" stories for you. What I want somebody to do is find me some place in the "Bibble" where the fish that swallowed, allegedly, swallowed Jonah was a whale. First of all, if it indeed was a whale, it shows that the people who wrote that "Bibble" didn't know anything about zoology because a whale is a mammal, not a fish. It said a fish. Now, who do you believe, the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

"Bibble" or those who manufacture stories? The "Bibble" told you, don't you-- every tittle must be jotted and every jot must be "tittled." But anyway, it said, don't you change the word by removing a jot or a tittle. If you remove a word--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --your name will be removed from the book of life, whatever that is. And if you add to it, all of the horrors that are in that book would be added to you. So I tried the best I can to get it right. And it's not because I believe it's true, but I used to occasionally wager on football games, and you hedge your bets to the extent that you can. I don't know what is or is not when we leave here, but if there are two warring factions, both of them have such power, I don't want to be at odds with either one of them. Mr. President, here's where I'm going to teach a lesson about the rules. I would like to withdraw that reconsideration motion.

WILLIAMS: The reconsideration motion is withdrawn. Senator Chambers, you're recognized for a point of order.

CHAMBERS: A reconsideration motion cannot be withdrawn except by unanimous consent or majority vote of the body. So I would ask unanimous consent to withdraw that reconsideration motion.

_____ : Object.

_____ : Aye.

CHAMBERS: So they are objecting, so I can't withdraw it, I guess.

WILLIAMS: OK. There's been an objection to the withdrawal of the motion, so we will vote on the withdrawal. To make this clear, we will be voting on the motion to reconsider. All those in favor of the motion vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Members, I'm hearing some confusion. We are voting on the motion to reconsider. Have all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 1 aye, 30 nays on the motion to reconsider.

WILLIAMS: The motion is not adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, we're back to consideration of Senator Scheer's amendment to the committee amendments, FA110.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WILLIAMS: Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: You all-- thank you, Mr. President. You all think I'm dumb, don't you? This Rule Book, this is a binding. Look how little that Rule Book is. I told you I would play by the rules and that I was gonna teach you something and the promise being made must be kept. I'm going to give you the page number of your Rule Book, page 48. It's Section 1-- Section 3 of Rule 7. And there is a heading near the bottom of the page with the letter (c) in parentheses. There are two paragraphs. Here is what the second paragraph says: Once motions are stated, they may be withdrawn or modified by the mover before a decision, amendment, or ordering of a vote has been taken. That means if the motion is made, the one who made it can pull it if none of these things have occurred. A motion to reconsider may be withdrawn only with unanimous consent or a majority vote of the elected members. Now the Clerk has a high pay grade, so he knew that in the confusion I didn't ask for unanimous consent. Whether we could get a majority vote or not had not occurred, so then you have to vote on what the motion itself was, which is to reconsider and that brings you back to that language again. That's what we did, we voted on whether or not we should reconsider. Now, that might be as clear as mud, but it covered the ground and the confusion makes your head go round. That's from a song by Harry Belafonte. And he was talking about things that happen and were told to him when he was a little boy. And he said-- but before I do that, I'm going to digress. That's what I'm going to do this afternoon, just have fun. He said: When I was a lad, just three-foot-three. OK. When I was a lad, just three-foot-three, certain questions occurred to me. So I asked my father quite seriously to tell me the story of the bird and the bee. He stammered and he stuttered pathetically. And this is what he said to me. The man piaba, the woman piaba. The cane stand tall, but the lemon grass, the lily root, gully root, belly root, uh. And the famous gunny scratch, scratch. The little boy said it was clear as mud, but it covered the ground, and the confusion make me brain go round. So I went and asked a good friend of mine known to the world as Albert Einstein. Albert Einstein said, son-- after the little boy asked him to tell him about the birds and the bees, Einstein said: Son, from the beginning of time and creativity there existed the force of relativity. Pi r square minus 10 is rooted only when the solar system and one light year make the Hayden Planetarium disappear. And if Mount Everest doesn't move, I am positive that it will prove that the man piaba, the woman piaba, the cane stand tall like the lemon grass, the lily root, gully root, belly

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

root, uh. And the famous gunny scratch, scratch. It was clear as mud, but it covered the ground. You want me to sing it? And the confusion make me bran go round.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: So I grabbed a boat and I went abroad, and in Baden, Germany, asked Sigmund Freud. He said-- I think I better turn on my light. So I'll wait until I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to recommit the bill to committee.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to recommit.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I like my activities on the floor to be in order, and I like them to be regular. So on the chance that I wouldn't be entitled under the rules to speak again, I had to have a motion ready and I put it up there. And as long as we don't vote a motion down, it can be offered any number of times. So when you withdraw the motion, it's not the same as if you allowed it to be voted on. If you let intervening business occur, some motions you couldn't make again that same day at that same stage. So to avoid all of that, I'm doing it in this fashion. I want to make it easy on myself, but not as easy as I shall later. But I want to tell you what Sigmund Freud told this little boy. He asked Sigmund Freud about the birds and the bees, and I said I'd sing it, but I don't have to now because my motion was read. He said-- I don't think I need to tell you that, we have youngsters here. And if I-- if I tell you the real truth, the nitty-gritty about the birds and the bees, you may get in trouble if you repeat it. But let me tell you anyway, bees make honey, birds build nests. Nobody has ever told us precisely what was to be told when they're going to tell about the birds and the bees, but we know what they are trying to get at by saying it nice. And they don't use the language that your president uses. But what I'm going to do today is use language that anybody who speaks English can use. And I'm going to show you where the "Bibble" contradicts itself. I'm going to show you that God is the source of evil. And I don't have to quote the Bible, although I can. Anything that exists had to be created. If it did not have to be created and it exists, it's the equivalent of a god. It had no beginning, has no end,

has always been here. But they say evil exists. They say the devil created it. No, the devil didn't. The devil can't create anything. The only one that can create is God. So if evil is here, God created it. They say God is all good. But if God is all good, that thing cannot give that which it does not possess. So the term "all good" is just a logical construct by theologians, but it's not valid even under the principles of logic. The concept of good must include the concept of evil. The concept of good must include the concept of evil and if God is all good, but God cannot produce evil then there is no evil in this world. Everything is good, everybody is good. Since only those who are evil go to hell, there can be no hell. None of the things in the Bible that you're told by all these preachers can exist if you use your brain that you have. But I'm going to for the sake of what I want to say today, because I'm not a theologian. I'm not, although I went to a Jesuit school, I'm not a Jesuit. I do not want to split a hair between the north and the northwest side as they were able to do and as they got great delight from doing. There is a school, I think, called Scotus, a Catholic school. I'd like to ask Senator Moser a question, if he will answer. You don't have to, I'll ask somebody else. Oh, I thought you were reluctant. I will ask Senator Moser, if he would yield.

WILLIAMS: Senator Moser, would you yield?

MOSER: Yeah, I may know the answer.

CHAMBERS: Senator Moser, have you heard of a Catholic school called Scotus?

MOSER: Yes.

CHAMBERS: OK. That's all I wanted. I want to be sure. Thank you, that's all that I wanted.

MOSER: I can't tell any more of the story?

CHAMBERS: Say it again.

MOSER: I know more than that if you want to know more about it.

CHAMBERS: Well, you'll have to do that on your own time. And I would like to know more about it. But Scotus had a first name, D-u-n-s, Duns Scotus. Some pronounce it Duns Scotus. And the Jesuits thought of him as somebody who was not bright and from his name came the word dunce--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

dunce. Duns Scotus is where you got the word dunce because they and the Jesuits, he and the Jesuits had a disagreement. And I don't want to waste time going into all that because it's pointless, doesn't make sense and people shouldn't fall out about it, but they did. You all may not realize that there was conflict and controversy and competition among the various Catholic orders. There were Benedictines, there were Ephesians, Corinthians, Colossians, Gethsemanes, Genesis, Exoduses, Leviticuses. I'm just kind of thinking of words because the people who are listening to me don't know whether what I'm saying is true or not and that's why I'm having so much fun. We are enjoying ourselves this afternoon. You don't have to know anything, but the things I'm going to tell you happened according to the "Bibble." There was a king who was known as the apple of God's eye. And this king's name was David, but he was not always the king. He was not always a grown man. He was born in the usual way. And he-- his daddy's name was Jesse. Not Jesse James, not Jesse Jackson, but just Jesse, the father of David. And he didn't become Jesse, the father of David, until after David was born. So prior to that, he was Jesse, the father of whoever the child born before David. And Jesse had a number of sons. Well, there was a king who died, and Israel needed a new king. So there was a prophet. And he-- his name was Samuel, and he went because he was directed there to the house of Jesse to find the new king. So that's what this-- the prophet told Jesse. He said, so bring your sons out here because God's gonna pick a king. And all the sons came out big, strong, strapping, muscular guys all looked like they could be Mr. America or Mr. France or whatever. And the prophet walked down and looked at them and he did not get an approving message from God. And this prophet knew that God did not lie. So he said, Jesse, you must have another son. And Jesse said, well, I do. He said, where is he? He said, oh, he's just a little fellow out there. He's taking care of the sheep. In fact, he's around them so much, his garment makes him look like a sheep and usually he smells like a sheep, but certainly he couldn't-- the prophet cut him off. He said, bring him in here; God is making this choice, not you. So they brought little David in, and little David just skipping and doing like little children do. And when David came, bingo! The profit said, this is the future king of Israel. And that's how David got to be king, according to the story. Read it if you don't believe it. And Senator Clements, who is not here, reads the Bible. Ask him. Now it not may not tell it exactly as I did, but that's the factual background. David didn't become king immediately. Saul was the king, and Saul no longer pleased God so he had to be replaced. Well, David

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

could play a harp. He learned how to do that. And I don't know whether he learned trying to calm the sheep, because music will do that. I saw on television where this guy played a saxophone and we-- when he went and stood by the fence and played his saxophone, all these cattle, cows and bulls, so I say cattle, all of them came and were in a semicircle while he played the saxophone. So David was able to work wonders with his saxophone. He mentioned how one time he had bearded a lion in his den.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Because David's job was to protect the sheep, he killed a bear to protect the sheep. So as the story went forward, Saul was a very wicked person who had become wicked. But why did he become wicked? And I'll tell you that when I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

CHAMBERS: Saul became aware of the fact that David was going to be the king. So he had a javelin one time, and he threw it and David escaped, but that's ahead of the story. Whenever an evil spirit from God-- and that's the way the Bible described it-- an evil spirit from God descended on Saul, Saul would do bad things, but somebody said there is a person who does wonderful things with a harp, we'll have him come play for the king, which David did. And when David played that harp, the evil spirit from God left Saul. There was also a young man named Nathan. You don't whether it's true or not, but take my word for it. I didn't say "my word for what it's worth," because it's not worth anything for-- to you, but take it for what I say. They became very close friends. In fact, the word that the Bible used to describe the love between David and his friend-- his name was Jonathan-- was the word they used to designate the love between a man and a woman, and that was the word that was used by this person to describe the relationship between David and Jonathan. But at any rate, David did a number of things that caused Saul to be worried about him. One had to do with a giant named Goliath. And I'm not telling this chronologically. The Israelites, as they were called, were on one side of the valley, the Philistines were on the other, and neither side could win. So somebody said, we will let our respective champions fight in the valley and whichever champion wins, his people will rule the others. So the Israelites, without knowing the facts, said fine,

but they didn't know what was in store. So they heard this loud clanking, and when they looked, they saw this huge metal glow appear over the rim of the hill. But it wasn't just a glow. It was the top of a helmet, and that helmet was on a huge head, resting on a neck like the trunk of-- trunk of a tree, broad shoulders, and this was a man. He was known as Goliath. And when he came into full view, he was the Philistines' champion, and they were waiting for the Israelites to choose their champion and they had nobody who would fight him. So David, being a little kid and believing the fairy tales that he'd been told about God and so forth, said, why are all of these people afraid of him? You might wonder why David was there. His brothers were in the Israelite army. And from time to time, David was sent from home to take things to his brothers. He was on such a visit when this contest was being set up. And they said, the men, everybody is afraid. And David said, afraid? You are the army of God. Not one of you will fight him? And they said, well, no. David said, I'll fight him. And they were ashamed, but they were still afraid. So they went and told the king, there is somebody who has agreed to fight him, but he's a boy. And I don't know what the king said, because it wasn't reported, but he probably said he might be a boy in stature but--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --in stature, but he's more of a man than any of you. So the king said, OK, go on and do it. And they were going to put armor on him and David said, I don't need that, I don't need that at all, I will use what I used when I defended the sheep, when I bearded the lion in his den-- in his den and killed the bear. They said, what are you going to use? He said this-- they-- we call it a slingshot. It was a leather pouch with a leather string on each side of it. You put a stone in it, you spin it around your head, and you let go of one end and the rock goes where you want it to, if you know how to do it. I'll have to wait until I'm recognized.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. All right, we've got a couple more people in here, so I will go to Senator Moser. I know Columbus is about 50 or 60 percent free and reduced lunch. I don't believe they're on this map, but-- but I remember on a map that I did see, you have some significant poverty in that Columbus area. What do you feel would

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

help your community eliminate some of the poverty or reduce the poverty?

WILLIAMS: Senator Wayne, would you like to ask Senator Moser a question?

WAYNE: Yes, sir.

WILLIAMS: Senator Moser, would you yield?

MOSER: For the sake of congeniality, yes.

WAYNE: Oh, you don't have to. I can go to somebody else.

MOSER: No. No, I'm just--

WAYNE: But, no, what would help your-- your community reduce its poverty? One or two-- one or two high-level things that I-- that I was trying to work on the rest of the session and next session with you on.

MOSER: Well, I-- we do have about 63 percent, I believe, of the public school children or their families are on free or reduced lunch. And in the surrounding schools, the percentages are lower. The Columbus school system is landlocked. They're surrounded by other school districts around them, so having that high a percentage of free and reduced lunch gets them about, I think, around \$12 million in equalization aid for the school district.

WAYNE: So then a solution to that would be just jobs and economic development? Is that kind of what I'm -- what I'm gathering?

MOSER: A solution to that might be some foundation aid so that they don't have to collect so much TEEOSA funds but--

WAYNE: I don't disagree with that. I think you raised a very interesting point. I think if you are a student in the-- thank you, Senator Moser-- you are a student in this state of Nebraska, Nebraska should invest in you in some category, no matter where you are. As Senator Pansing Brooks says, "no matter where you are in life," I feel like that applies to all of our students. We should invest something across this state of Nebraska, especially dealing with-- with poverty. Senator Dorn, got a similar question about your district. I haven't had the chance to sit down and visit with you. I know last year we had

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

a-- a pretty good battle on sales tax, and I appreciate your effort in making your community better. Would Senator Dorn yield to a question.?

WILLIAMS: Senator Dorn, would you yield?

DORN: Yes, I would.

WAYNE: Senator Dorn, we're looking at your district and poverty rates. What are one or two big-ticket items we can do to help economic development and reduce your poverty rates in your area?

DORN: Well, I know in-- in-- in Beatrice and some of the other communities in there, they have an issue with some poverty or, as Senator Moser said, in-- in the schools, as far as the low income and the amount of funding they get for their children or-- or on the low-- the low income for their meals or whatever. One-- one other thing is, I call it, probably higher-paying jobs, better jobs, also-- I agree with Senator Moser-- some foundation aid that would go to the schools so that now the school districts in my area would have more funding and less reliant on property taxes. That would help not only the rural areas, but also the urban areas.

WAYNE: Thank you, Senator Dorn. Let's see, I can keep going and going and going. But will-- Senator Hunt, will you yield to a question, please?

WILLIAMS: Senator Hunt, would you yield?

HUNT: Yes.

WAYNE: The question of poverty and what you think are the top two--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: --top two things we could do for your district to help out, reduce the level of poverty in your district.

HUNT: The top things that I think we could do to help out to reduce poverty in my district in midtown Omaha is to expand access to SNAP, to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and to find more solutions for affordable housing. My district has a lower percentage of property owners than other parts of the state because we have a lot of renters, and we know that people who rent are more likely to face other issues of poverty, are more likely to be uninsured. I have one

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

of the highest rates of people in the Medicaid gap in the state. And these issues of access to housing, good pay, food, medicine, and then all the students in my district, as well, at UNO and Creighton have a lot of student debt. So all of these things kind of compound to keep them from advancing in our society to the point where a lot of people in my generation are behind their parents' and grandparents' generation in terms of feeling like they're able to get ahead, and that's something that--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

HUNT: --I wish we could do more for them here.

WAYNE: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne, Senator Hunt, Senator Moser, and Senator Dorn. Senator Vargas, you're recognized.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, Senator Williams-- President. I just want to respond to Senator Wayne earlier because he-- he made a statement about I really don't know how Latinos-- you know, I can't speak for the Latino identity experience. And I just wanted to chime in here because we-- we don't really often have that conversation. I think we had this conversation, Senator-- Senator Wayne and I, and we've had it for some time. You know, I served-- I served with Senator Wayne on the school board, you know, and the really odd thing that we don't always talk about is what role identity plays for us. And, you know, I'll be really frank. Serving as the only Latino senator often does bring its challenges. I'm usually the only person in the room that is somebody that's Latino or Hispanic or identify as such, especially in state government, especially in the rooms that we're in. It does mean that we do some level of code switching, which many people may or may not have heard, where we are code switching either through language-- and I'm seeing some head nods even from some of our pages-- code-switching through language or code switching through cultures. And-- and so you know, it's part of this conversation we had previous around being-- being told that we are really well spoken. That is connected to this. We are constantly in-- in a room where we're trying to ensure that we-- we are a representation of our individual culture and who we are. But we're also representation of every single individual that's not in that room that shares that identity. It is a heavy toll, it is a heavy burden, and it's something that we take on and we do not talk about because we want to make sure that we're seen as effective individuals

and as effective senators outside of our culture and identity. But it is something that is a challenge. And so you don't-- you might see us off the mike talk about our individual cultures and the language we speak. And if you-- you know this about me, I'm born and raised in Queens. My parents, son peruanos, they're from Peru. I'm first generation in this country. And those are things that I don't talk about all the time, but they are deeply rooted in part of the conversations we have about policies that we work in here. I don't always bring it because, I'll be quite honest, I don't always think it's the most compelling, and it drives people to think, well, we really need to then focus on trying to advocate for that community. I tend to really focus on economic development, you know, careers, making sure people have a job, rather than talking about how things are detrimentally impacting race and class in this country. And I'm really ashamed sometimes that that's the only thing that moves people, but is part of the code switching of actually bringing forward people to vote for things. I am saying it now because it is sort of a little vulnerability on what I know Senator Wayne is trying to voice here. But from my perspective, those are really important pieces of my identity that you don't always hear me talk about. And those pieces of identity do drive a lot of my decision making and what we do here, because we do come from very disparate, different districts. I represent the largest Latino-serving district in the state in Nebraska. I represent a very high-- low-- very high-need community. I have millionaires and I also have people that are in abject poverty. I have really amazing condos, and then I have communities that have really, really low-income housing. So I'm trying to make sure that I code switch and meet the needs of both of these communities, because that's what's asked of me. But I also want to make sure that I'm also always connecting back to my culture and of my identity and not lose sight of where I came from, because a lot of the conversations that we've had here, making sure we're meeting the needs of low-income individuals, I grew up in a low-income background; making sure we're meeting the needs of kids that don't have--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

VARGAS: --lunch, I was on the free and reduced lunch program growing up my entire life, making sure that we could make sure that people can go to higher education. I was on a Pell Grant. If it wasn't for these programs that I talk about, I wouldn't be here. I know that for a fact. I just want to make sure that is really clear because it was a question that was posed from Senator Wayne. I don't always talk about

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

it. This seems like a good enough time as any since we are talking. And I appreciate people listening and I'll continue to try to bring it forward and be more brave in that. But I also want to make sure that people are willing to ask those questions off the mike and understand that some-- sometimes those pieces of our identity may not be moving you to vote yes, but they are really important to the communities we serve, which are truly, truly diverse and are growing more diverse. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Chambers, you're recognized and this is your third time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Going back to my tale that I was telling, Goliath was ready to fight. Nobody from the Israelis' side was ready to fight except little David. And when they tried to give him armor for protection, he rejected it. He said he didn't need this kind of armor, he would use just what he had used when he was tending the sheep. So he had his slingshot, a little bag of rocks around his waist, and a staff. And as he came down from his hill and Goliath approached from his, it was like a towering oak tree being approached by a small dandelion. But as they came closer, everybody saw the difference in size. And Goliath held his head back. He said, am I a dog that you would send a boy to fight me with sticks and stones? And David didn't say anything. He just put a stone in his little slingshot. And while Goliath was yakety-yakking, he slung-- spun it around his head. Goliath had this huge metal helmet, and there was something like a plate across his forehead that was attached to the helmet, and an opening like a semicircle in the middle of that helmet. Well, that gave David something to aim at, and he needed that. And David-- the "Bibble" now is written in English. It's been written in different languages. But in the English version, God took liberties with the language. And since it's God, God can take liberties with the language if he wants to. So it said David "slang" it. If a child wrote on a paper in English "he slang a rock," he'd get marked down for it. And if the kid said that I was going by what's in the Bible, they'd say we don't have any religion in school. That's from religion. You get an X. But anyway, David's slang it, and that rock sank in Goliath's forehead. I told you all another biblical origin of shake, rattle, and roll. When Samson pulled down the temple, he shook the pillar, the ceiling rattled, and everything in the window cases; then when the ceiling fell, many things rolled. That's shake, rattle, and roll. Well, this is where rock-and-roll came from. David took that sling, threw that rock. It hit Goliath in the head and when Goliath

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

fell to the ground, David took Goliath's head and, according to the Bible, cut his head off. And that's where rock-and-roll came from. The rock hit Goliath in the head, David cut his head off, the head rolled, and that's where you got rock-and-roll. Now you know. And some people say they built this city on rock-and-roll. They don't even know where rock-and-roll came from. But then David became king. And somewhere along the way, he lost his way. He became a modern-day version of a peeping Tom. He looked across some expanse and saw a beautiful woman taking a bath, and her name was Bathsheba and David wanted that woman. Now, if he was going to do like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Patrick Henry, and all your founding fathers, he'd have just gone on over there and got her. But he didn't want to do it that way. He was the king. So his army was fighting against another group of people and they were in a walled city. He had a very faithful general who would literally lay down his life for David if necessary. David knew this. That man's name was Abner.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: And he told his soldiers, because Abner is reckless, he'll be in the heat of the battle, and that means he will be near the gate. So when he's at the gate fighting, I want you withdraw all the troops from him. And they were stunned, but David was the king and the king can do no wrong. So in the heat of the battle-- that's where Abner was-- they withdrew. A stone was dropped from the top of the wall. Abner was killed. Was it Abner or was it Uriah? There was a guy named Uriah the Hittite. Now you all have to figure who was the husband of Bathsheba, Abner or Uriah the Hittite? I think it was Uriah. You might disagree. And Bathsheba was married to Uriah. I thought somebody would call me on that. The only Abner--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: OK.

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

MOSER: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, it seems like we're kind of filling time here. I thought I'd tell an interesting story about a constituent of mine that came up and talked to me about Senator Chambers. And because of the business I'm in, I get a lot of preachers and their staff that come in and need things for their churches and--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

and we talk about those. And one of these preachers said that for somebody who doesn't profess to believe in Christianity, that Senator Chambers sure knows a lot about it. And-- and I said, yeah, I-- you know, I-- he's often said he doesn't believe in it, but-- but he does know a lot about it. And I have people come up to me on the street and ask me about, you know, why we talk about religion in the Legislature. And I said, well, some of the other senators bring it up. But one of the things I told one of my preacher friends, and I'm not sure that Senator Chambers will take this as a compliment, but I told one of my preacher friends that Senator Chambers might have done more good in the Legislature advancing the cause of Christianity than all the preachers we've had here and come and give the opening prayer. Thank you very much.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Moser. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk?

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

WILLIAMS: It is the ruling of the Chair that there has been a full and fair debate afforded to LB1008. Senator Scheer, for what reason do you rise?

SCHEER: Call of the house, please.

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

CLERK: 21 ayes, 2 nays to place the house under call.

WILLIAMS: 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. Members, the house is under call. Senators, please report and record your presence. Senator Morfeld, would you check in? Senator Slama, the house is under call. Would you please report? Members, the first vote is the motion to invoke cloture. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Been a request for a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

ALBRECHT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer. Senator Brieese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator La Grone.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. 40 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, to invoke cloture.

WILLIAMS: The motion to adopt cloture is adopted. Members, the next vote is on the motion to recommit to committee. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay.

CHAMBERS: Roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: There's been a request for a roll call vote.

CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Arch.

ARCH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Geist.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

GEIST: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting-- no? Was that a no, Senator? Thank you-- no. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McCollister.

MCCOLLISTER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

MCDONNELL: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Moser.

MOSER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Quick.

QUICK: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Scheer.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

SCHEER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Walz.

WALZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: No.

CLERK: Voting no. 2 ayes, 41 nays on the motion to recommit.

WILLIAMS: The motion is not adopted. Members, the next vote is on the adoption of FA110.

SCHEER: Roll call in reverse order, please.

WILLIAMS: Roll call in reverse order.

CLERK: Senator Wishart.

WISHART: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Walz.

WALZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: No.

CLERK: Voting--

VARGAS: No.

CLERK: --no. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Quick.

QUICK: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Moser.

MOSER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

MORFELD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Groene. Senator Gragert. Senator Geist.

GEIST: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Chambers.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Blood. Senator Arch.

ARCH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. 2 ayes, 38 nays on the amendment to the committee amendments.

WILLIAMS: The amendment is not adopted. Members, the next vote will be on the adoption of the Appropriations AM2737.

CHAMBERS: Roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: Roll call vote has been requested.

CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Arch.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Senator La-- voting yes, excuse me. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

LATHROP: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

WAYNE: No--

CLERK: I-- I'm sorry. You want to vote no, Senator? I'm sorry. Senator Wayne voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. 41 ayes, 2 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

WILLIAMS: The amendment is adopted. Members, we will now vote on the advancement of LB1008 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote yea-- aye; those opposed vote nay.

CHAMBERS: Roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: Roll call vote has been requested.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Senator Albrecht.

ALBRECHT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hughes.

HUGHES: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan voting--

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: --yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. 41 ayes, 2 nays on the advancement of the bill.

WILLIAMS: The motion is adopted. LB1009 is advanced-- excuse me, LB1008 is advanced. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: President, some items. First of all, Urban Affairs reports LB866 to General File with committee amendments attached. Amendments to be printed: Senator Wayne to LB1008; and Senator Matt Hansen to LB1016. Mr. President, next bill, LB1009, is a bill by Senator Scheer at the request of the Governor. It's a bill for an act relating to the Cash Reserve Fund. It authorizes transfers, repeals the original section, and declares an emergency. Introduced in January, referred to

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the Appropriations, advanced to General File, there are committee amendments pending.

WILLIAMS: Senator Stinner, you're recognized to open on LB1009.

STINNER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB1009, introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor, is part of the Governor's 2020 midbiennium budget adjustment recommendations for the 2019-2020 biennium. The bill authorize and provide for certain fund transfers and changes certain fund provisions. This legislative bill contains an emergency clause. With your permission, I'd like to proceed to the committee amendment, AM2738. That actually becomes the bill.

WILLIAMS: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Stinner, as Chair of Appropriations, would offer the committee amendments.

WILLIAMS: Senator Stinner, you're recognized to open on the committee amendment.

STINNER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, the original Sections 1 and 4 are removed, instead of making cash fund to revolving fund transfer, then appropriating from the revolving fund for the Secretary of the State. The Appropriations Committee simply made the issue a direct cash fund appropriation. Section 1 of the amendment is a transfer of \$3.8 million from General Fund to the Critical Infrastructure Facilities Cash Fund on or before June 30, 2020. Section 2 of AM2738 includes the provision-- excuse me-- provision of LB826 which eliminates the annual transfer of \$100,000 beginning fiscal year 20-- 2021-22 from the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund to the Compulsive Gambler Assistance Fund and allows for the transfer from the Charitable Gaming Operations Fund to the Com-- Compulsive Gambling Assistance Fund at the direction of the Legislature. Section 3 strikes the limitation for the Department of Revenue to spend no more than the amount needed to fund a half-time FTE from the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund. Section 4 mirrors the original Section 3, which directs the State Treasurer to transfer \$175,000 from the Water Sustainability Fund to the Department of Natural Resource Cash Fund on or before June 30, 2020, another transfer of \$425,0000 between the same fund to take place on or before June 30, 2021. The committee amendment allow-- adds a transfer of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

\$500,000 from the Water Sustainability Fund to the General Fund made before June 30, 2021. Section 5 is original Section 3, which allows for grants to irrigation districts from the Critical Infrastructure-- Infrastructure Facilities Cash Fund. Section 6 is a repealer section. Section 7 is outright repeal of Section 46-- 46-752. Section 8 is the E clause. With that, I would urge you to vote green on AM2738. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Stinner. Returning to debate, Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, colleagues. Well, we'll see if we'll go six hours here. That puts us about 9:30. Be good Thursday night discussion. But we're going to keep talking and keep going because that's what I believe in. So I got a couple interesting emails from a lot of rural senators during this time-- rural senators' constituents during this time, and they asked a very interesting question. It was about three of them that asked a different question. One was saying thank you for doing it. The other one was saying pretty much the same thing around, when has a rural senator ever asked me, or an urban senator, what they need for their district on the mike? And quite honestly, we don't have that conversation here. We don't have conversations about what each other needs unless we're maybe afterwards having a drink, which we can't do anymore because we might have-- shake hands. So I think it's-- we can still have this conversation. And I think what I've heard so far-- and actually my staff is taking notes because I think it's important to know where people are and what's important to them. And I hear foundation aid a couple of times, and we can have a conversation about foundation aid and a couple other things. But I do think it's important, if Senator Bostelman has maybe heard the questions, if Senator Bostelman will yield to a question regarding poverty in his district.

WILLIAMS: Senator Bostelman, would you yield?

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

WAYNE: Senator Bostelman, the question has been pretty much everybody's district have some type of poverty and I'm looking for what do you feel are your top two, three-- two or three things that would help you reduce poverty in your area, in your district?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

BOSTELMAN: Housing would probably be one, for sure, and the other one is probably just further education.

WAYNE: Education is-- you see any issues with funding and education or you feel those kids are-- are equal-- equally and equitably served in your district as they are the rest of the state?

BOSTELMAN: I think they're prob-- well, I don't know if equally and equitably. Explain that to me.

WAYNE: Well, not everything is equal. Just because you give everybody \$5, they may be treated equal-- equally, but if they need more than \$5 and some only need \$2, then they're not treated equitably. So there's two different things given every kid, but they might need-- across the board or what you think you'll need, like \$5, is equally; equitably is, well, if a kid needs a little bit more resources, maybe we should give that kid \$7 versus the other kid maybe only needs \$2. And so I would-- I would venture-- and I don't want to speak for you, but the fact that you don't have foundation aid and you probably don't have some type of equalization, you would probably argue that they're not treated equitably, that-- that we should give them some kind of state funding.

BOSTELMAN: Well, our-- well, yeah, we should give some of that state funding, for sure. I mean, there's-- there is a need there definitely. And although dollars do go a little bit further in our area, just because of cost of living, but we do need-- we're in-- you know, our-- if you're talking about K-12, we've got several schools that are in hundred-year-old buildings that need to be replaced. We have other schools that have challenges with language, those type of things, ESL-type programs, just the population that's in that area because of the immigrant population, that there's challenges there within the school system just to provide the needed resources for those students. And when they come in, sometimes they come in at an older age but then have a lower education.

WAYNE: Right. Thank you. Will Senator Clements yield to a question?

WILLIAMS: Senator Clements, would you yield?

CLEMENTS: Yeah-- yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: Thank you, Senator Clements. Can you answer the question about what two or three things would help your area as far as reducing poverty?

CLEMENTS: I would say increased-- increased wages, which would need to be from more jobs, from better businesses. Better--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CLEMENTS: Better jobs would probably be number one. Also, it's quite rural, and property tax decrease would help the rural farming area.

WAYNE: Thank you. Again, colleagues, I think we should start having conversations about what we are looking for and needing and what we're moving. And a reason why this relates to budget is because budget is our priorities that we set for the state and we put dollars behind it. And I, again, think the committee has done yeoman's work. I think they're doing a great job. I do think we can always get input. And so with that, we'll continue to keep having a dialogue. I look forward to a dialogue. I will offer a couple amendments up here on the board to make sure that--that we have a dialogue. But I will be asking people in this body what they think they need and-- and maybe start talking about some solutions. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne, Senator Clements, and Senator-- Senator Bostelman. Senator McCollister, you're recognized.

MCCOLLISTER: Well, I haven't been on the mike today, my friends, so I thought I'd talk to you about electric rates-- kind of a varied menu today. Some time ago, perhaps a week, we talked about electric rates, and I thought I would do some research. And to that end, you have at your desk some attachments which we're going to talk about. First one is a attachment from NPPD. And you can see that pretty picture on the front of the attachment. That's from our friendly electric utility in central Nebraska. And let's talk about some of the content on that attachment. First off, they talk about reliability, affordability, and sustainability. And they-- that utility has done a very good job in all three categories. And perhaps the most important thing you should look at is the maps on the opposite side of the-- that attachment. It shows that among the states in the country, that NPPD is 13 among the states with a cost of 10.7 cents. The U.S., for our total, is at 12.89 cents. So that indicates that NPPD is well-- is a very competitive electric utility. NPPD rates since 2014, the map shows that \$105 per

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

kilowatt-- 1,000 kilowatts is \$105. And the industrial rate for the same measure is \$30. And as you can see in that map, they are very competitive when compared to all the states in the country. The second attachment is a white page, and it talks about the year. Senator Wayne, when he was on the mike talking about electric rates, seemed to indicate that the last ten years, the electric rates in Nebraska have gone up at an unreasonable rate. No, that's not the case. If you look at the rates since 2014, you can see they've been relatively flat, haven't increased much at all. So I think that pretty well disputes that particular idea. The next page is a map of the country. And you can see that Nebraska is \$105, and D.S.-- U.S. average is \$138, so electric rates in this state have been competitive. The next map is the-- the industrial rates, and once again, \$30, and the average rate in the whole country is \$41. So it's-- it's-- it's definitely-- it's definitely a low rate. And finally-- finally, a bar graph showing where Nebraska comes in among all the states, and you can see Nebraska is part-- at the low end of the scale. So I think we can pretty well refute the idea that Nebraska has high electric rates, and I know for a fact that OPPD and MU-- the NPPD are among the lowest in the country. So I leave you with that. And thank you, Mr. President.

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

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will not offer my motions or even amendments until this kind of discussion, where people really want to talk about the bill, will be completed. But I'm going to spend time on this bill also. However, I do sometimes accept requests, so I'm going to read a rhyme that I put out today, and the headline, the title, is "I, Edgar Allan Poe," and under that modest autobiographical sketch in rhyme, "ghostwritten," in parentheses, parenth-- parentheses, "by Ernie Chambers." Poe, I am Edgar Allan Poe
/ Where others dread to tread, I go / Plunderer of folklore's history
/ Sire of the detective mystery / I sneer at fear and hold the helm of
horror's ship / My gruesome realm / The stench of death befouling the
air / The stealthy step on darkened stair / The unnamed terror
tinglingly eerie / Moods oppressively heavy and dreary / Melancholia,
shadowy gloom / Shriek of terror, clap of doom / Screech of banshee,
Croak of Raven / From my fair, none finds a haven / Moans and groans,
the horror-struck utter / Drawing from the strong a shudder / Graves
and tombs, dark cemetery frightens some, but make me merry / Ghastly
ghouls and phantoms hideous / Murder cruel and fate perfidious /
Rotting corpse with shreds of skin / Staring skull with stark death

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

grin / Elements all of my obsession / Terrifying tools of my profession / Dare you rummage through your mind-- through my mind? / On your guard, take care / You will find only what, though strange, is true / And there reflected an image of you / I project the things I ought / Things that every mind has thought / Terrors, deep in psyche hidden / Creeping into minds unbidden / Things that skulk in dead of night / Things that make flesh crawl with fright / Demon spirits, sprites malicious / Psychologically, though, delicious / Some misshaped, some statuesque / Inhabit this dark world grotesque / Let this work, macabre, end / Exactly as it does begin / Terror, horror, dread, fear, woe / Synonymous had become with Poe. That's a little rhyme. I do like Edgar Allan Poe's writing. I think he had a very, very active, imaginative mind, a deep understanding of human psychology. And in some instances he would describe things in such graphic detail that you could visualize it; in others, he hints and suggests, like the unnamed terror or the stealthy step on the stair, to let you conjure up in your mind the thing that would make you most frightened. And when you fear-- feel that fright, it redounds to the benefit of Poe as a writer, because you feel that he looked inside of you and saw what would make you fearful.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: But in reality, he knew how the human mind worked, and he used it to advance what he was trying to do. So one thing I had suggested. If I say something, nobody may pay attention, but if I introduce it by the words "as Edgar Allan Poe wrote," then people will listen and pay attention because I'm attaching the name of somebody which means something to them, and that's worth listening to. So there are little mind games that are played by everybody in a lot of realms. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, colleagues, I'm dropping some amendments, and this is where it gets interesting. We are going to decide whether we're going to grant some money to West Point today. We are going to decide whether we grant some money to or move money from the Gering project that's being done to Wyoming to Middle Loup Public Power District to make sure they're taken care of. So we're going to have a record vote of who you want to pick, because that's what you're making me do. So they'll be on the board and we'll go for six hours,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

and maybe we'll only go for four if we beat a dead horse and it's just me and Senator Chambers-- or Senator Chambers and I talking. But it'll be on the board, and when it's on the board there will be a vote and there will be a record vote, so we will get a vote on this. That's the rules that are laid out in that book. I've learned from the-- the best of Senator Chambers, and that's what we'll do, so keep going with the things that we're talking about. Senator Matt Hansen, will you yield to a question?

WILLIAMS: Senator Matt Hansen, would you yield?

M. HANSEN: Yes, I would.

WAYNE: Senator Matt Hansen, I've been asking questions around poverty. I know your district has a little bit of poverty in it. And regarding poverty and unemployment, what two or three top things would help you or help your district reduce their level of poverty?

M. HANSEN: Absolutely. There's a variety of different things. Housing is definitely a big one, making sure we have affordable housing. A large number of my district are renters. And we know in the city of Lincoln a large number of our renters are cost burdened, which means they spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent. Childcare and the expense of childcare is also a large burden. We see at times, especially if people-- where it's just quite simply expensive and leads to one parent needing to withdraw from the-- from the workplace just because there isn't sufficient options. And then broadly, kind of just overall employment and making sure access to employment-- we know a lot of people of my district, especially in-- who are poverty or at the edge of poverty, are probably working multiple jobs or bundling together multiple part-time jobs, so they don't necessarily have the full-time benefits that, say, a salaried employee would have or need, including sick leave and whatnot. So those are some of the key ones off the top of my mind.

WAYNE: Thank you. Will Senator Ben Hansen yield to a question?

WILLIAMS: Senator Ben Hansen, would you yield?

B. HANSEN: Yes.

WAYNE: Senator Ben Hansen, how are you doing today?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

B. HANSEN: Peachy keen, jelly bean.

WAYNE: There we go. Same question. I know you have some poverty in your district. I've been through there quite a bit. What would help reduce- two things, quickly-- would help reduce the poverty in your area?

B. HANSEN: Well, let me think here. Sometimes I think the best incentive you can give people is to get government out of the way. So less government intrusion would actually probably benefit a lot of our businesses probably the most, which would then, according to the free market, will then help create jobs, which help increase revenue, which would help increase pay to its employees. So less government intrusion, I'd say, would probably be one of the best things we could give for my district to help fix poverty.

WAYNE: I appreciate that. Would Senator Halloran yield-- how much time do I have left, Mr. President?

WILLIAMS: 1:18.

WAYNE: Senator Halloran, I'll come back to you and ask you the same question about poverty. Colleagues, I will tell you, though, I'm making a note of this. All but-- all but one actually did not mention jobs, all but one.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: I tell you that's no different than my district, and I'm going to bring this home around LB1218 and why jobs are important in how we as a government do our budget. Instead of maybe doing stuff on the back end, maybe we should figure out how to promote small businesses on the front end. And so we'll-- we'll have that conversation around historically underutilized businesses in these red areas, because I truly believe, if we look at this map again-- and I don't want to call out counties again, but if we start improving the red areas on these maps, then the entire state gets better. And what happens is, if we decrease-- decrease poverty, we know, statistically speaking, our educational outcomes come-- are better. We also know that social programs are reduced. We also know that healthcare and-- and disparities in healthcare are closed. And guess what that does? That frees up taxes. That frees up revenue to go to property taxes. So maybe we should--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator, I've got your two amendments. Do you want to take up the first one you gave me or the other first? Do you--

WAYNE: The-- the first one would be fine.

CLERK: OK. Mr. President, Senator Wayne would move to offer floor amendment-- FA113, excuse me.

WILLIAMS: Senator Wayne, you're recognized open on FA113.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. FA113 is very simple. What this floor amendment says is, on page 5, it strikes the beginning of the first-- where it says "to," 26 through 28. And the intent of this, and maybe I'll have to do an amendment on Select to correct it, says that we're going to provide a grant to a community with populations between 3,000 to 4,000 residents to carry out the repairs of drinking water facilities. I think it's critical and it's not a whole-- you know, I don't-- I don't define the amount. I think we have to go back on Select on 2000-- on that LB1008 and figure out the amount. But I want to see where people are on voting for this. We're giving \$3.8 million dollars to a community to serve 55,000 acres-- let me repeat that-- 55,000 acres where we have 3,000 to 4,000-- communities with 3,000 to 4,000 residents who don't have drinking water. I think as a state, one of our priorities should be to make sure every community has safe drinking water. It's a simple amendment. I think it's worthy of an up-or-down vote, however long this body wants to take to make that vote. But we do have communities out here that have 3,000 to 4,000 residents who do not have clean drinking water. I think that is a fundamental problem. I can go into stories about Flint, Michigan, and things like that. But because this is a small town, I feel like it's being left off the map. And so this has nothing to do with my community. This is something for a community that doesn't provide jobs to my community. In fact, the only thing that it does is on-- in front of Harold's cafe, they run semis with cattle and hogs that are kind of going through West Point and those areas. But other than that, there's really no connection to me and this community. But I do think it's important that if you have a city and they have a municipal water treatment and water facility, it should be up and running. Now, my

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

understanding, this has been over a year that this fac-- this water facility hasn't ran and quite honestly, the city can't afford to do anything about it. They've tried. So we as a state, I'm asking to step in and help them. And this will go to other bills that we'll have. But I think it is critical that we take care of everyone, and it's also critical that they have drinking water. So I would love to see the vote on this because that's essentially what we're doing is picking and choosing in our budget many times. Now I was told a long time ago not to take our bills personal and yet, if I use this tactic, Senator Chambers, that we're doing today, you won't be here, but a couple of my colleagues-- I guarantee you today, I'm going to call it-- they are going to introduce a rule change. They are going to figure out a way to not let this happen going forward. I can see it because I've seen history repeat itself or they tried it with you over and over, and in no way am I comparing myself to you, but people are frustrated. People are mad. People wanted to go home at noon. But yet when Senator Groene does it for four hours, nobody ever will propose a rule change for that. But the fact that I did it today with Senator Chambers and I'm going to keep doing it for the rest of the session, I guarantee you, there will be a rule change proposed next year. I'm going to call it. We're going to put it on a transcript, and I'm going to read it next year when it happens, because I've seen filibusters that weren't filibusters, but somehow it went to filibusters. But they kept getting on the mike saying, I'm just asking questions, this is just good conversation, and then right when we get to three hours, five more people jump in the queue. But I've been clear of my intentions. We had an up-or-down vote in a package that we knew wasn't going to pass, so we're going to start striking each one of them out and making people vote. And we can go line by line, so it might be a couple long days. And again, people can get mad at me, but you all taught me this my first year with Title X when it took three days to pass the first budget on the first round. And then at one point we had to wait three or four days, have some more negotiations, meet in the back room and try to figure out language on Title X before it could come back up. So that was OK for that crowd to filibuster a budget to get what they want, but when it comes to us, Senator Chambers, it's personal, they're upset. I don't know the difference because there were males fighting for Title X at that time. You tell me what the difference is. Why is that OK and no rule change is being introduced, but I guarantee you it will be introduced next year. Why was that OK first year and people weren't all upset but they're pretty upset right now? What's the difference? Well, I'll tell you the difference. The difference is

there is a clear path right now to economic development in my community, and I would do a disservice to my community if I don't stand up and fight for it. There is a project and everybody knows what it is \$3 billion, \$2.6 billion. And if you don't know, there's also a development project around that project that's another billion dollars. We're talking \$3.6 billion in east Omaha. Think of just 10 percent staying in that community, \$300 million; \$300 million over a five- or six-year period, will we be talking about OPS's poverty rates and how much TEEOSA formula they need and-- and equalization aid? Would we be having a conversation on Friday morning with all the big school districts where OPS is still saying we can't do anything because we're going to lose money and the real, real truth of it is, is they don't trust the state? Three hundred million could be injected and stayed within that community by using historically underutilized businesses. The chamber came and spoke in favor of it. But the big contractors and the big business doesn't like that idea because \$3.6 billion is a lot of money to them. And \$300 million going to the community in which this project sits is a problem. But nobody understands that. Nobody wants to talk about it, and I'm supposed to allow that to happen without standing up for a fight. We were arguing over, if I remember, less than a million dollars in Title X dollars. Think it was around \$300,000, might have been \$250,000, and this body was outraged because of the principle that it involved. But nobody is outraged of the unemployment, the crime, the poverty, the social ills that continue to happen east of 60-- 60th Street in Omaha. But we're going to vote to give \$300 million to this project, but we don't want to sit down and say, hey, let's make sure some of that money stays in that community, let's make sure-- and here's the worst part about that. I don't even require it in my bill. I don't even require it. All I ask is that contractors and the owner, i.e., any owner, which is a political subdivision or a state agency or, as Senator Groene would say, government--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --just try in good faith to use small businesses. I don't use race. I use poverty, and I say just try. And I even outlined, more so than the federal level where it's gray, I outlined exactly what good-faith effort means. And in this day and age, it means send an-- send an email out to small businesses, create a list of small businesses, Department of Labor, send an email out to those lists saying here is an opportunity, and take those bids in, in good faith. That means don't discount them because they're small. That means don't

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

use side-- they've never done a sidewalk before, they can't do it today, but they did parking lots, but it wasn't our type of parking lot. We're not talking about rocket science. We're not talking about set-asides.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

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

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, would you please yield?

CHAMBERS: Yes, I will.

CAVANAUGH: Senator Chambers, you're like my poetry kryptonite. You just keep bringing up my favorite poet, and I know you know it.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: First of all, I'm thrilled to have my own personal copy of your Edgar Allan Poe poem. My question is, and I've wanted to ask this question for a long time, when you do your "ERNIE-GRAMS," you periodically underline words in red. What is the intention behind that?

CHAMBERS: Just emphasis to call attention to whatever is underlined.

CAVANAUGH: Well, it's quite dark on this one--

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: --flesh and crawl and fright, misshaped, dark, world, end, begin, terror, horror, dread, fear, woe, Poe.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Are you familiar with-- and I will-- I did not recall this on my own. I actually-- my staff mentioned it to me. It seemed apropos

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

to what's happening in the world today, the Edgar Allan Poe short story "The Masque of the Red Death."

CHAMBERS: Yes. That-- I think it was-- it was a disease or something, but it was a long time ago that I read that--

CAVANAUGH: Yeah, I-- it's been a long--

CHAMBERS: --a plague or something.

CAVANAUGH: I might be reading it again this-- this afternoon as I sit here.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: It was written in 1850, so a few years back, but I just wanted-- every time you talk about Edgar Allan Poe, you know, I just have to get up and acknowledge my love of Poe. So would you like the remainder of my time?

CHAMBERS: Oh, I'd appreciate it.

CAVANAUGH: OK. Well, there you go. I yield my time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you very much.

SCHEER: 3:10, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wayne and I, and others who have undertaken efforts like this, know that our arguments are not going to be well received in the sense of altering anybody's conduct. Even if their mind is changed, the shots that are fired in this place are called not by those of us who are here as state senators, but interests outside, from the Governor's Office to the chambers of commerce to the lobbyists for specific business enterprises, and that is the way it's going to be done. However, despite knowing that is the way things are done, those of us who take seriously this job cannot use that as an excuse not to do what we can to at least compile a record so that in years to come people might want to know why and how this particular situation that we have today got to where it is. And in some instances, if they read the transcript or what is called the legislative history, there will be nothing in there which explains precisely how or why, because the how or why is not on this floor; it's out there in the Rotunda with

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

the lobbyists or in that office that the guy with the long, flowing locks-- it's called the Governor's Office, where that Governor with the long, flowing locks of hair on his head has dictated what will happen over here. Senator Lathrop yesterday made some very valid points about overcrowding, the emergency situation that has been going on in the Department of Correctional Services--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --for any number of years. Nothing has been done to rectify it. No programs have been formulated that would rectify those programs which would have a chance of passage by this Legislature or, if passed by the Legislature, being signed by the Governor. He is a political animal. Our scope has to be different from his because we look not just at today, but how what we do will affect generations to come. He doesn't have to worry about that, just the next election. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Sen-- Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you are next in the queue.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I've spent much time talking about process, which people bring up from time to time for reasons different from mine, but it is important to establish a process. But a process on paper is of no greater value than a law on paper if those who have control of the operation of that process or the enforcement of the law will not act in good faith. They're just words, as Shakespeare said, as words spoken by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. One of those slaveholders-- it may have been James Madison who talked about or propounded a principle: If all men were angels-- they don't ever take into consideration women-- if all men were angels, there would be no need for laws, and he could add prisons and all these other things. But men are not angels. The "Bible" says they were made just a little lower than the angels. But if you take into consideration Lucifer, who was an angel, and they are made lower than Lucifer, then you can understand why Elijah Muhammed, who was the originator of the group called the Black Muslims and later the Nation of Islam, Elijah Muhammad characterized white Americans as blue-eyed devils. And there were some of them who became offended, then Elijah Muhammad had a list of things going on at the time instigated by white people, carried out by white people. Endorsed and approved by white people that would put a devil to shame. That would make a devil blush if a devil were capable of that. And those things have not changed.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

There might be a different type of discussion about it. But Senator Wayne, who is well educated and has a law degree, I, who am what I am, might be using somewhat different language from the old, old days, but we're talking about the same types of issues. There is no problem Senator Wayne has mentioned or that I have mentioned which this Legislature does not have the power and the means available to address. They simply are not going to do it. But after springing every dirty trick imaginable, they want us to play nice, to work and play well with others, as they used to put on the report cards when we were in grade school for me all those years ago. So the time I'm most critical is when the Legislature is failing to do not only what it has the power to do, but an obligation to do, to keep the oath unviolated that the senators took. Senator Wayne and I wouldn't have to be arguing so much in the way that we do. And as for saying what Senator Morfeld, who is not on the floor, had said earlier, don't say, because you didn't get what you wanted on a certain bill, that it will turn you against another bill. Why is Senator Morfeld not here? He's a white guy. He gets much of what he wants as a white guy.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: His-- did you say time?

SCHEER: No, Senator. One minute.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. His constituents are white and his white constituents are taken care of. Then, in a not-so-veiled allusion, he will say we ought not get even when we don't get what we want. Look how much of what he wants that he gets. Look how much any white senator wants that he or she will get, because, as I've told you, all white people's interests parallel, intersect, overlap, and what one white senator doesn't get, the other one does. And ultimately, white people are going to clump together against everybody else, so they're not going to lecture me about how to conduct my affairs when there are things that relate to their affairs. I bet there are more white LGBTQ people than black people. I'm here fighting for them.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. I do rise in support of the Appropriations Committee amendment and Senator Stinner and Speaker Scheer and the budget. Since I got called on the microphone earlier, I thought I would just kind of expand my thoughts, you know, and to kind of what's-- what do we need to do to address poverty or what's one of the key things to addressing poverty in your district? So you should have all gotten a handout from me. It's a map of percentage of renters paying more than 30 percent of their income to rent in the city of Lincoln, and it is a page out of the proposed draft of the city of Lincoln's affordable Housing study. And this is important because this is people who are paying more than 30 percent of their income to rent. They-- that is kind of the rule of thumb. Once you cross that threshold, you know, you're-- you're cost burdened, you're really susceptible to homelessness or other issues should you have a change in employment or be laid off, and it's kind of this, you know, key marker. And I, as best I could from memory, drew my legislative district, District 26 in that. And if you see there, I have two census districts, including the one I live in, that are over 60 percent of renters pay more than 30 percent of their rent. And that is why I keep looking at issues related to renters, and that is why I keep looking at issues related to affordable housing. That's something that is key to my district. You know, as you can see from the city of Lincoln, this problem is not unique to my district, although certainly it varies kind of across town. And I wanted to share that because, you know, you guys all were here last year. You saw my priority bill was dealing with-- with renters and the landlord/tenant law, trying to kind of provide some more protections of evictions, trying to provide some more protections in terms of security deposits, which when you're already cost burdened on rent, having a security deposit be your full month's rent that you don't get back, maybe for not-great reasons, is a huge financial burden and really is kind of make or break for some individuals and some families. Similarly, this year, I brought a bill dealing with affordable housing. I've supported other bills related to affordable housing, including by Senator Wayne and Senator Vargas. And I really appreciate Senator Wayne making one of the Urban Affairs Committee priority bills an emphasis on affordable housing. And I really appreciate the-- all the work that the League of Municipalities and others did with us on that bill, and I'm excited we're going to get to debate that somewhere at this point in this session. But that's something I just wanted to bring up. Why we're having this discussion, it was put on me-- you know, what are you working on, what matters to

your district? Housing, housing, housing, and it's different in different places where, you know, we see in Lincoln we have an incredible amount of housing being built, but it's not equally distributed across the spectrum. When you look at it in terms of density, we're missing the middle density. We-- the Journal Star just ran a week or two ago that over half of our new housing units last year were the large-scale student apartments downtown, like the four- and five-story buildings. Over half of our units were just big apartment complexes, which is not necessarily a housing style or an affordable housing style for everyone. Similarly, you know, likewise with a lot of other cities like the city of Omaha, you know, we're growing greatly in our suburbs, but those are largely single-family homes, often in many neighborhoods, you know, custom-designed, you know, higher-income, more luxurious homes. And I have that in my legislative district. If you look at the map, I actually go outside city limits and the area past, you know, 90th Street, 98th Street, going out that direction has really been booming and we've been building a lot of single-family homes. This is something I've been working on. This is something I considered using for my second personal priority-- excuse me-- using as my personal priority for the second year in a row before we had an opportunity to know that Urban Affairs was going to be working on it as a committee priority. You know, as we talk about this, Senator Vargas had a bill looking at middle-income--

SCHEER: One minute.

M. HANSEN: --housing-- thank you, Mr. President-- which was to increase housing stock. You know, my bill was looking at what unneeded burdens does the city put on developers. You know, it was a bill, to their credit, the Platte Institute supported because it was trying to address and eliminate regulations that kind of artificially skew our housing stock. You know, I didn't really have a full plan. I wasn't planning on speaking this today. But since Senator Wayne kind of put the issue to me of what are you working on or what does your district need, affordable housing and just affordable housing kind of across the board is something I think most of our communities need, and certainly mine in Lincoln. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: Well, thank you, Mr. President. So, colleagues, I kept hearing about small businesses and businesses and jobs. And I know LB720 is-- now have a rural and a small business component. But I do want to talk a little bit about why government procurement so important and how oftentimes, well, at least I've been told, that we can't afford it. But I'm looking at this budget and clearly that's not it. We can afford it. I mean, we're-- we're just giving money away. But I do want to bring-- OK, one more thing about the \$300 million. We are given \$300 million of state funding. And what I'm submitting to you is, through a historically underutilized business, we can keep \$300 million inside of the community in which this project is going. You can look at that as a direct investment into north Omaha. Create jobs-- it's a job creator. It'll last for a long time. It'll fundamentally change this economy. It'll fundamentally change north and south Omaha. And you have to look no farther than Atlanta: 1970 Atlanta wanted to build a new airport. It was 1979, and it was a \$500 million project, ended up turning out to be about a \$750 million project. But the mayor, Maynard Jackson, famously said, weeds will grow if 30 percent don't go to black and brown folks. Now, again, I can't use black and brown folks because of a constitutional amendment, but what we can do is change poverty, so use the same scenario and say we can change poverty. So here's what happened. What happened was the project was delayed for over a year, and then finally folks understood that Maynard Jackson meant business. So reluctantly, Delta and the federal government said, fine, FAA we'll-- we'll do some kind of procurement. And that's actually where our first affirmative action program started. That's actually what our federal government based it off of was this model. Now, as the feds got involved in different cities, it got a little different, but it works. And here's what I mean by that. So the same arguments that I hear from these contractors quietly behind the scene-- now understand what I'm also doing is risking my business right now by talking about big contractors. But at some point, you just got to lay it all on the line. So what these big contractors will tell you is that (1) we don't have enough people or (2) it'll cost too much and it'll drive up your local costs and, in this case, also our state budget through DAS and Department of Labor. That's what they also said down there, and they said, oh-- the same thing up here-- we don't have enough people, we don't have enough expertise. So what Maynard did, who was also an attorney, sat down and looked at the plans and said, you know, when you look at an airport, an airport's really about 80 percent a parking lot. We know how to do parking lots, we know how to do sidewalks, so don't give me the idea

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

that we don't know how to do it. And he challenged them. And the fact that construction wasn't going to start for another year gave him time to ramp up workforce development to build their own. Black, white, purple, whatever, if you were in Atlanta, they were training you for this project. There goes your workforce development. There goes part of our prison population getting out and being able to work. With that set aside, at that time, construction companies started to grow. Now people think construction companies are just one industry, but let's-- let me tell you how it spins off into more money. Construction companies now who go from a--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --5-man crew to a 15-man crew means they have to have a part-time accountant or a full-time account, depending on what's all-- whether it's a federal project or not. They also are running trucks down. They need mechanics. So now they got spinoff companies that are not necessarily their own, but just tied to the idea of, hey, you're a mechanic, start your own company. I can feed you 15 trucks to work on. You're an accountant. You're an attorney. I need you to overlook our contracts, our subcontracts. Now the industry's growing. And if you ever look at Atlanta, where it's called the black mecca, it all goes back to 1979 to 1983, from this specific project. It's documented, this specific project. And you're telling me we have a project now in north Omaha and I'm not going to take the same stance when I seen it already work in Atlanta, in Chicago, in Austin, in Houston, San Diego? The model works. It'll fundamentally change the environment.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I want to remind my young brother Wayne that we're talking to the people who are watching what goes on here and not the people who are not in this Chamber, although some of them might be listening in their offices. I often have people come to me and ask me how I'm going to work on a bill that they don't like, or one that they do, because they need help. Well, I know how white people are. They come when they want you. They come when they need you. But if the issue that is being discussed is one that I have a feeling about one way or the other, or if I'm indifferent to it, then I will do and accommodate. I'm just that kind of person. But I am not one who is going to let somebody slap me and I turn the other cheek voluntarily. I don't believe in that. Let those

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

who believe in it do it. But those who advocate it don't do it. White people want black people to turn the other cheek, and that's why they love Martin Luther King, because that's what he said should happen, and when blood was flowing in the streets. And you know where the blood came from? White people, cops, cops with guns, shotguns and pistols, siccing German shepherd dogs on our children. And white people think I shouldn't talk about it? How would they feel if somebody sicced dogs on these white children at UNL or some Catholic school? But our children don't count. If the Nazis did it to the Jews or turned fire hoses on our children and our women, you all must think we're crazy, and it's all I can do to maintain my sanity when I'm on this floor. You all don't know anything and you don't care about anything and you'll never learn anything. And that's why I'll take time like this when nobody's in this Chamber, because of a larger number of people out there, and they'll hear and they'll be outraged at me. They'll be hate filled, but they can't help listening. And so I'm talking to them and I'll continue. If you all want to eavesdrop, help yourself, but it's not going to make any difference. You're not going to change. After 46 years, I know what you are. And I like to quote the "Bible." It was said about Jesus he had no need that anybody testified to him of man for he knew what was in man. He knew. And he wasted a lot of time with those people called disciples and he could have-- I don't know that he was a singer, I didn't read-- he could have mouthed the words, "When will you ever learn, when will you ever learn?" Somebody wrote a song like that, a white guy, and a white guy sang it. I know your songs. I listen to what your people say. How am I going to know about you? If I'm a prey animal, I got to know what the sounds that a predator makes, what those sounds mean. And you all are the predators. All these years, you have had people telling you and showing you the racial discrimination, the murdering of black people by cops, the unjust imprisonment of black men and boys for decades. Then when irrefutable evidence of innocence is presented and they're released after 20 years, 30 years, 50 years, you know what these white people have the nerve to say? Well, Ernie, the sy-- the system worked. I say, what are you talking about? Well, they let him out. If the system worked, it wouldn't have happened in the first place. And that's the kind of tripe that white people tell us and you feel like slapping them.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: The system worked? Are you out of your mind? And you get upset when all we do is explain to you and take from your history. And

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

you get outraged. You don't want to hear it. It's enough to make some grown men cry and enough to make some grown men take the gun. The ones who would be justified in this country in doing that are black men, but white men are the ones who are mowing down this people. They talked on the news this morning about Utah or Idaho. This man brought his 11-year-old child with an automatic A-15 into a hearing and said that's what his grandson owned, 15-year-old white boy. And that's what your society is about. Everybody carries a gun. Who are you going to call violent?

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: And that's what you want us to listen to.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne, you're recognized and this is your third at the mike.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, I-- I can't stress-- you know, what's funny is after this bill passes or after-- let's say it happened-- LB1218 comes out and we pass it. You know what's going to happen with the \$3.6 million dollar project? They're going to declare it an emergency and they're going to bypass every small business in Omaha. They're going to bypass everybody. They are going to fly people in and they are going to come in here, work, and leave. That's what's going to happen, because even in nonemergency situations it happens. You have to look no farther than Facebook and Google. Go look at the GCs. They're from Kansas City. They traveled from Kansas City to the data center in Des Moines and came here afterwards. We're not hiring our own. And what this bill at least tries to do is does-- is try to make that a requirement that at we least try. I don't think people realize we're voting on a budget that on Select File we're going to have to fundamentally change. Everybody wants to rush, rush, rush. Omaha just took a \$20 million hit today. NCAA tournament is canceled. College World Series is canceled. That's \$20-30 million. What's the ripple effect that's going to be on our economy? Conventions that are normally at Qwest Center have already been canceled. What's the effect on that going to be? What's the effect going to be when UNL and UNO, that have massive construction projects that are about to kick off, find out that they can educate people online? We're going to have empty buildings. We're going to have students electing to take online classes rather than classes that are actually in person because they can become used to it. But we're going to give \$10 million to rural housing. We're going to build a canal to help grow some plants. But

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

when it comes to urban situations, we're going to ignore it. That paragraph didn't even make sense because I touched on five different things that are so heavy that most people are like nodding, nodding, nodding, but how does it all equal? It doesn't. It doesn't equal. It doesn't flow. The fact of the matter is, is we just do things to do things, and I don't think we think about the long-term policy and the long-term changes we want to make in this body. And I know it's hard to. It's hard to when you only have eight years. It's hard to when you've got to rerun in four years. We're going to argue about process? Well, when Suzanne's-- Senator Geist's bill comes up, we're going to see where Senator Williams is on process, because it is not out of committee. I made that mistake. I'm dealing with LB147 every single day. And Senator Chambers told me about that after that vote. See, we-- we get in disagreements. We just don't do it on the mike. That-- that's the only two times-- I think it's only been two times he came over and gave me that--

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: --scary conversation. I won't let it be three, Senator Chambers. I only got 20 days left, so I think I can make it. What are we doing, colleagues? Is this budget planning for the future or are we just trying to make some immediate needs to take care of a couple people? Senator Erdman voted for the budget. I know why. It's \$3.8 million going to help his district. I can't get a bill out of committee because it may cost \$5 million-- absolutely absurd. So every day from here on out will be a long 20 days. It's not a threat. It's just-- this is important to me, just like Title X was important my first year to a lot of people. When you're talking about your fundamental right, the core of who you are and the people you represent being left out, it took all day for Title X, that's what it's going to take for me. And the interesting thing is I stood by most of those people on there. I didn't even vote for the budget because of that--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: --because of all the conversations, but nobody stands by me.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator--

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Chambers, this is your--
this is your close on the motion.

_____ : It's [INAUDIBLE]

_____ : It's his third.

SCHEER: Oh, I'm sorry. You have one left and then your close. I
apologize.

CHAMBERS: [MICROPHONE MALFUNCTION]

SCHEER: This is your last at the mike and then Senator Wayne would be
closing.

CHAMBERS: OK. Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I will be on the
mike more. I'm just going to start making some of my motions like I
usually do because they're not going to be voted, taken seriously, but
they give me opportunities to talk. And I'm going to go back to my
lecturing from the "Bibble" because I'm sure there are people out
there with bated breath wondering what I'm going to say about King
David, who referred to himself as the apple of God's eye. After he
became a king, he wanted another man's wife. So the man married to
this woman was one of his top generals, probably the top, and David
arranged for this man to be sent to the heat of battle or would-- he
would go there on his own, because that's the kind of man he was,
withdraw to be sure that he was killed, and when he was killed, David
took that man's wife to bed, like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington.
Patrick Henry, Francis Scott Key, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice
Roger Brooke Taney, who was a Roman Catholic, would take black women
and black girls that they purported to own to bed. And they did what
those racist rapists did to those black women and a child was born,
and the child was very ill and people gave David to believe that the
child was going to die. So David, trying to persuade God not to kill
the child, just let himself go to pot. He didn't bathe, didn't shave,
put on sackcloth and ashes, and-- I'm kind of embellishing-- cried and
moaned and groaned and people were afraid to even come around him, and
he was like a mad beast, dribbling in his beard, didn't bathe. And
then word came that the child died, and they feared, all the people in
David's household, telling the king that this child had died. But
somebody had to tell him, and when the message was given a remarkable
transformation took place. David took off the sackcloth and ashes,
shaved, took a bath, acted like somebody in his right mind, and the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

people were amazed. And somebody had the nerve to say, when the child was alive you went through all of these things, we thought you might die, and now the child has died and you're like you are now. And David said, while the child lived I thought maybe I could prevail on God to let the child live. That didn't happen, and now the child is dead. He cannot come to me, but perhaps I can go to him. But since all of that failed, he just cast that aside. As things went on, another old prophet came along. And his name was Nathan and he approached David. He said, King, I have something to tell you. And David said, say on, Nathan, because they talked. And the prophet in those days was like the jester or the fool in modern times, could say things to the king that nobody else could--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and would not suffer for it. So Nathan gave him a story. And while I have the floor and can do with my time what I please, I have to craft an amendment so that I can continue talking. You know it's hard to write and talk at the same time, but I'm going to try to work it out and I can state what the motion is going to be. It will be a bracket motion until April 22, 2020. And a motion can be even-- either given orally or in writing, if it's required.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, seeing no one in the queue, you're welcome to close on FA113.

WAYNE: Call of the house.

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

CLERK: 8 ayes, 2 nays to place the house under call.

SCHEER: The house is under call. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. All senators away from the floor, please return to the Chamber. The house is under call. Senator Williams, would you check in, please? Senators Lathrop, Quick, Howard, Morfeld, Vargas, Dorn, Senator Matt Hansen, would you check in,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

please? Slama, Senator Hunt, Senator Hilkemann, would you check in, please? Thank you.

WAYNE: Thank you. While colleagues are coming in, we are under call. So this bill is-- this-- this amendment is very clear. There's no dollars actually being appropriated here, so it doesn't hurt the budget. What this bill does is it strikes starting with the word "to" on page 5, line 26, through the word "failure" in line 28. And what it does is it replaces canals and irrigation district, that little subsection of the bill, with "to provide a grant to public power and irrigation district-- I'm sorry, wrong one, that's the next one-- "to provide a grant to a community with a population between 3,000 and 4,000 residents to carry out repairs on drinking water facilities." So right now, for those who are going to vote, we are going to vote whether the canal that feeds land and feeds "chickapoos"-- chickpeas and grass and soybeans is more important than giving a grant, at least the structure of a grant, to West Point to repair their drinking water. That's what we are voting on. I'm not actually allocating any money. This is just a structure saying that we will transfer funds. The money has already been appropriated in the last bill. Now it's appropriated to something else, so we'll have to clarify that on LB1008 on Select. But this is just a structure that will allow us to give West Point, or any other community who doesn't have drinking water and needs their drinking water facilities repaired, between 3,000-4,000 residents. This isn't a north Omaha bill. This is a rural bill. So you guys decide what's more important. I think both. I think we could fund both. And this-- we'll start that conversation. So with that, I'll ask for a roll call vote.

SCHEER: Mr. Clerk, there's been a request for a roll call vote.

CLERK: Senator Albrecht. Senator Arch.

ARCH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Geist.

GEIST: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Matt Hansen.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hughes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Moser.

MOSER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Wayne.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WAYNE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. 5 ayes, 24 nays on the amendment.

SCHEER: The amendment is not adopted. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, would you raise the call, please?

SCHEER: I raise the call. Mr.--

CLERK: I have other amendments. Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 22.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I'll-- I'll address the question to the President, but I'm not sure if I heard the Clerk. Did he say that there are other amendments pending?

CLERK: One.

SCHEER: There's one.

CHAMBERS: Since I haven't spoken yet, can I withdraw my motion--

SCHEER: Yes, you may.

CHAMBERS: --and that amendment can be taken up?

SCHEER: Yes, you may.

CHAMBERS: OK.

SCHEER: Are you withdrawing that?

CHAMBERS: Say it again?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

SCHEER: You're withdrawing your motion?

CHAMBERS: Yes, I am.

SCHEER: Without objection. So ordered. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wayne would move to amend the committee amendments with AM2919.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, you're welcome to open on AM2919.

WAYNE: AM2919, which one's that? AM2919-- we have a lot of amendments, so we-- we can-- we'll be here for awhile and we're going to take votes. I just want to remind everybody we voted not to provide a grant to West Point for drinking water. This amendment I'll talk a little bit more about. This one actually says that we're going to set up a process in which Loup Power District-- I know Senator Mur-- Moser gave me some better language if I was going to use it. But for right now, we're going to go ahead and rock with it. So I'm going to go back to talking about what I was talking about as far as small businesses. And we were talking about-- we were asking people questions. And, Senator Slama, would you yield to a question?

SCHEER: Senator Slama, would you please yield?

SLAMA: Yes.

WAYNE: Senator Slama, before this dragged out too long, you had an amendment on LB1008. Would you briefly describe what that is so the body knows when it comes back up and it doesn't get lost in the shuffle?

SLAMA: I will. My amendment to LB1008 would have provided a city of less than 1,000 people with \$125,000 to conduct engineering costs related to repair of a levee that's protecting their town.

WAYNE: Thank you.

SLAMA: Yep.

WAYNE: I also have an amendment. Thank you, Senator Slama. I have an amendment that we're going to set up a grant process for a town of less than 1,000 people to repair drinking facilities because, believe it or not, Peru is still operating out of a temporary water facility. So again, let's-- let's fix western Nebraska and make sure we can grow

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

things, but let's not make sure we have drinking water throughout our state. All right, moving back to small businesses, and-- and I keep hearing about jobs. I was going to ask Senator Cavanaugh a question, but she's on the phone. So, Senator Quick, question about poverty-- will you yield to a question?

SCHEER: Senator Quick, would you please yield?

QUICK: Yes.

WAYNE: Senator Quick, you have corrected me and said that the section I was looking at for Senator Friesen was actually your section. Can you tell us a little bit about that area of town and what things-- one or two things that would fundamentally maybe change and help reduce your-- your poverty and unemployment rate there?

QUICK: Yeah. And, you know, I'd asked you-- it's-- I wanted to try to find a map of where that actually is located in the city, but I think I have a pretty general idea of-- of what that would look like. And we have some high-poverty areas in Grand Island. And of course, one of the things that I would like to see is I think higher wages would-- would address a lot of our issues in Grand Island. I think it would address a lot of the issues across the state and probably across the whole country just with higher wages. But with higher wages we also, as-- I would like to mention jobs, as well, so I think more jobs in-- in our community would be a really good thing. That probably comes down to manufacturing jobs or jobs that would be someone who is doing work with computers or software or some of those technical jobs. So those are a few of the areas that I think would-- would really benefit our community and benefit a lot of the people who live in poverty in our area.

WAYNE: Thank you. Thank you, Senator Quick. There's an underlying theme here, guys, about-- and ladies, about-- or, women and men, about jobs. So let's not-- I guess this-- let me tell you a secret. Most of the jobs in Nebraska are small businesses. Maybe it's not a secret to you all, but it's small businesses. And here's how I define small business in LB1218. You have to have, as an owner, less than \$1.3 million in assets. We're targeting truly small businesses. And you have to look at the NAICS code. So there's different codes, general contracting codes, specialty codes. Every industry, every business fits into a code. Well, underneath the Nasdaq-- or the NAICS code, you have to be less than 25 percent of the gross revenue. So in the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

general contractor sense, the gross revenue is around \$2.6 billion, I think, or \$200-something million. And so you have to be lower than about \$25 million in gross revenue to consider yourself a small general contractor. So I'm talking not the Kiewits, not the J.E. Dunns, not the McCarthys-- who's not here-- Hausmann, Vrana, one of your big companies that do the paving out in Nebraska. They don't qualify. Even if their owners only have \$1.3 million in assets, excluding their private residence or primary residence, they still got to meet this threshold of a small business. So we are truly talking about small businesses. And what we're saying is if you're headquartered and/or have employees from these ERAs, economically redevelopment areas that are on these maps that I've handed out, you should be able to compete on jobs fairly, on contracting fairly. I don't understand what the problem with that is. Does it require DAS to work a little harder? Absolutely. And here's how it requires them to work a little harder. If there is a job, let's say we're building a new Capitol, instead of just building the Capitol and putting with the engineer one project and sending it all out for bid, what they have to do is they have to say, hey, as owners and as architects and engineers, let's look at this list of small businesses and see what scopes of work we can set aside and let them compete on. So there's still a competitive bid process for the small businesses. We're just telling the GC to come up with a plan, make sure you contact these small businesses, allow them to bid, and operate in good faith to work with them. Why is that a bad policy for the state in Nebraska? Why is it that every other state has a historically underutilized business program except for Nebraska? Why is it that every other state sit down and work hard and make sure it happens? Well, because oftentimes Nebraska is controlled by about seven or eight people, and it just so happens that most of them have some type of investment in construction companies. And at some point, ladies-- ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, we got to change that, that if you are a interior designer and you have a mom-and-pop shop and there is a opportunity to be a small business and-- and-- and work on the new UNMC facility and do some artwork and some decorating for the lobby, why shouldn't the owner look at that and say, let's try to make sure we work with small businesses, because that business could double their employment throughout the life of that project and actually grow? Why is that fundamentally wrong? Why can we not-- how do we not afford to pay for that? It just doesn't make sense to me. And everybody in here talks about they support small businesses. Tell me one bill you have voted on since being here that is a small-business bill. Push your button.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

Tell me. The fact of the matter is, most of our tax breaks go to property owners, and all of our tax incentives go to big companies. Look at the Advantage Act. Tell me how many small businesses that owners are less than \$1.3 million actually are within that tax credit, getting those tax credits. It's to a point where tax credits are being sold so much that we don't even have the market to keep them being sold because there's so much out there being sold because these millionaires and billionaires can't use them all in one year. I remember a bill, Senator Friesen, to allow a major company use their tax credits beyond the definition that was originally used for because they couldn't use their tax credits fast enough. So we-- who cares, right? I guess we'll just keep handing out tax credits. That worked so well. TD Ameritrade worked so well, got about \$15 million, got TIF after their project was three stories already built. But, hey, small business, we can't get a break. We can't even compete on a job.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: So I will tell you that we will be here long and we'll start asking people on the mike if property taxes are so important. We're not going to have general conversations about we've got to make cuts. You tell me what specific program you want to cut and tell me how that won't raise taxes. We'll start calling people out and we'll just keep doing this for the next however long until we have to recess or-- well, we can't go electronically. It's not in our rule book on-- and there's been cases where snowstorms and people on their deathbed and they wouldn't allow people to vote telephonically or things like that, so we'll just keep going until we have to all do everything virtually. And then I'll ask him via virtual, what do you want to cut, and how's he going to pay for it if we cut it and how it doesn't raise property taxes. Colleagues, we got a problem and we need to fix it, and that problem is we aren't treating everybody fairly throughout this state. So maybe nobody's listening. But I know--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: --people out there are. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have to shift gears because we're not going to be here as long as I thought, so I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

got to finish telling my stories for the people who are out there listening, and I know they're out there. I was telling you about David. Nathan came to David. Nathan was a prophet. Prophets, as you know, are these guys who wear these robes and they got those piercing eyes and they say it looks like fire comes out of their eyes. And Nathan came to David and he said, King, I have to tell-- oh, I was telling you how a prophet is allowed to say things to a king in those days, like a jester or a fool could-- could to the king. And there was a rhyme. I'm not going to tell it at all, but I'll give the idea. The royal feast was done / The king sought some new sport to banish care / And to the jester cried, Sir Fool, / Kneel now and make for us a prayer / The jester doffed his cap and bells / And stood the mocking court before / They could not see the bitter smile / Behind the painted grin he wore / He bowed his head and bent his knee / Upon the monarch's silken stool / His quavering voice arose / Oh, Lord, be merciful to me, a fool / Then, as though talking about himself, he told all of the harsh things that people did to others, and then he'd-- the refrain: Be merciful to me, a fool. And that's how the fool gets away with saying it. Then, after he told all these things and wrapped up saying something to the effect: These clumsy feet, still in the mire / Go crushing petals without end / These hard, well-meaning hands we thrust / Among the heart strings of a friend. And I-- that's-- that makes-- that kind of sets the tone. Then, when he finished, it said: The room was hushed / In silence rose the king / And sought his garden's cool / He walked a part and murmured low / Be merciful to me, a fool. The fool got the message through to the king that nobody else could; the same with the Prophet. He came to David and said there was this man who had sheep as far as the eye could see. And his neighbor had one little you ewe, e-w-e, sheep. And this man with all these sheep beyond counting took that man's one ewe sheep. And David was angry and talked about what ought to happen to a man who had all of these sheep and the man who had one sheep, he took that sheep. And that's when this prophet drew himself up to his full height of three feet, six inches tall. Fire flashed from his eyes. He pointed that bony finger at David and Nathan said unto David in Latin, ecce homo: Thou art the man. And David was smitten in his heart and knew the wrong that he had done. So much for David, the king who everybody said was such a great man. Now what I'm going to have to do is-- but I don't have time this time. I'm going to put my motion up there and it's going to be a priority motion. We're going to have a little talk, not with Jesus but about Jesus. And when I get a chance to talk again,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

I'm going to tell some things about, as I said, I could have hung with this cat if what they said about him was true. But you can't believe--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --everything there because, as Gershwin wrote, the things that you're liable to read in the Bible, they ain't necessarily so. But they make good stories. And if I get a chance to speak more than once, then I'll be able to tell some. But until I can get my motion up there, I will have to stop and hope that I don't have to give up the ghost before I get a chance to tell my tale about this cat that I could have hung out with if what they say about him was true. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne, you're recognized. And there's no one left in the queue, if you would like to use this to close on AM2919.

WAYNE: No, I-- I won't. I'll-- I'll use this and then I'll close. Actually, Senator Chambers, if you're-- if you're about ready for your motions, I will here in a minute withdraw my-- my amendments so you can finish your story. It's-- it's interesting. Colleagues, I just want to remind people when we leave here today, I'm telling my staff not to come in tomorrow, primarily because I don't know-- where they're canceling everything, they might cancel interstate travel and-- and Jake might be stuck down here and that's really bad for him. He likes to be-- sleep in his own bed at home. That's forever in the transcripts just right there. Remember that. In all seriousness, colleagues, I'm going to keep debating this issue because I can't leave this year with the asterisk of not accomplishing something that we will never get the same opportunity for my community again, We just won't. There will never be this much dollars at a federal level, at a state level, poured directly in to my community again. Senator Hansen, do you want me to yield you some time? You're pretty loud and you're probably on the mike, just-- OK. Just checking. But in all seriousness, we won't ever get this opportunity again, and that's why this is so important to me. And for those who don't understand it, I tried my best. I tried my best to explain the dynamics that I have to go through every day I come down to this Legislature where, whether I like it or not, there is astigmatism-- a stigma-- astigmatism is in my eye-- a stigma that is placed on my skin, that every time we've made strides for equality, it was at a cost of zero to everybody in this room except for black and brown who paid for their lives or pay for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

their sweat and tears. And the one time that we have a project that is in the heart of east Omaha, for me not to stand up and fight, I would do a disservice to my community. And if nobody can understand that with that historical perspective, then I actually feel sorry for you because you don't have the ability to step in somebody else's shoes. You don't have the ability to look through the historical lens and not say you understand completely, because nobody can. I can't understand the argument of Title X. But if it's that important, the least I can do is listen. And if I find it to be something I align with, then the least I can do is burn down a house with you. See, it isn't-- it isn't always the whispers in the background that mean things. Sometimes you got to-- you got to be willing to stand up next to the person that's fighting and say, you know what, it's about time we do something. I was told by somebody in this body that if I were able to--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: --if I were able to pull off LB1218, and I would venture to say this is probably the number-one conservative in this body, that it would fundamentally change north Omaha. I was told by the second or third most conservative person in this body, if you're able to keep \$300 million, just-- just \$100 million around that community, within a mile, the difference that would change in educational outcomes. And if my conservative colleagues can see that, then I'm dumbfounded why we can't pay for it. I'm truly dumbfounded why we can't pay for it. We all know how important this issue is. We all know that--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Wayne. Clerk? Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wayne, would you yield to a question?

WILLIAMS: Senator Wayne, would you yield?

WAYNE: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Well, actually, it's more you had a question for me, but I was on the phone. What was your question?

WAYNE: What would fundamentally or what two things would change the poverty rates in your district?

CAVANAUGH: Thank you for that question very much, and thank you for the discussion we're having today. I actually wrote down some notes that fell on the floor, so one moment. So my district-- and I've got your-- your map here and I-- I had to look up an overlaying map to see what part of my district this-- was in this map. And if you look at the-- the census tracts, 66.02, 66.04, and part of 64 in my district, so there is a red part of this in my district. And the other half of 64 is in Senator Hunt's district, so she and I share that red census tract that is-- needs economic redevelopment. I-- quite a few things would help my district. The part of my district that I live in is-- is this part that I was just discussing. And when you look at the-- the census map that you put out, it is clear that redlining has a very dominant place to play in where we need economic redevelopment, including in my own neighborhood and precinct. Transportation is a crisis for many people, many workers, especially in Omaha. We are a car city and we have a lot of people that can't maintain or even own a car. It's very expensive. And if you do own a car, our winters are pretty tough on a car and our mass transit is only now starting to be invested in and it needs a lot more investment in order for it to be reliable for people to take to work and school. Affordable housing-- my district has a need for affordable low-income housing, affordable middle-income housing. Food deserts would help my-- my district economically. The grocery store by my home is the only grocery store for several parts of Omaha. I think a lot of people from downtown Omaha actually shop at the grocery store by my house and I live on 74th. So that's-- that's almost-- we're getting close to 100 blocks with no mass transit to get you there. Paid family medical leave so that you don't lose your job if you are sick; expanding the definition of race to include hair textures certainly would help economic development in my district and all of the districts. And when I look at this handy-dandy Planning Committee 2019 annual report-- thank you to all of those that were involved in putting that together-- and I look at the state demographics versus my demographics, my-- my district is actually pretty close to representative of the state. The population in my district is 79.3 percent white, non-Hispanic, and the state is 74.9 percent, so very close. My district has 12-- I'm sorry, 7.5 percent poverty-- below poverty and 6.4 percent uninsured. The median value of a home in my district is \$190--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: --thank you-- \$198,100. Now I find that really fascinating because in-- in my neighborhood that would be like the highest end

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

possible for a house. But the Governor's house is in my district, which I imagine his house is probably worth a little bit more than \$200,000. So when we're talking about middle-income housing, middle-income housing would be huge for my district. The median household income in my district-- again, keep in mind that the Governor is in my district. The median income-- income household-- household income is \$60,000. So you've got to think that the Governor's income really offsets that substantially, so the-- if you took him out, I can't even imagine what that household income would be. But the fact that 79 percent of parents are in the labor force and childcare costs about \$1,000 a month per kid in Omaha--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Sen-- Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Wayne. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers offers a priority motion to bracket the bill until April 22.

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, we're not going to be here as long as I thought we would, so I have to go ahead and jump to the head of the line. I'd promised the people who were watching and waiting for these brief stories, and I have to shorten them because there's not as much time. I will do what I said I would. This man was born out of wedlock and in later life they used it to attack him, the religious people. They said, at least we know who our father was. So Jesus, when he was growing up, was ridiculed as a child. They don't tell you that in these churches, but that's what he lived. and it's why they didn't have much regard for him. And in later life, they said, who is he? That's Jesus? Well, we know his family. His brother Joses, Judah, Simon, we know all them. None of them amounted to much of anything. But at any rate, he grew up, and you all know in broad outlines, if not in detail, what he did. He healed sick people, including the servant of a Roman centurion. And the Romans had Israel and the rest of the world under the heel. This centurion came to Jesus and told him that he had heard about his magic, and he wanted him to come heal the centurion servant. And the-- and-- no, he said he wanted him to heal him. And Jesus said, take me to your servant, and

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

I'll see what I can do. And the centurion said, no, I am a man set under authority, as you are, whatever authority you are under. And I say to this one, come. He comes. I say to that one, go. He goes. All you have to do is say the word and my servant will be healed. He believed in Jesus's magic. Jesus used that as an opportunity to tell these Israelites, I've not seen this kind of faith in Israel, go home and your servant is healed. And he was. Jesus heard a lot of moaning and wailing one day. He walked around among the people and he saw this crowd at this poor man's house. He said, what's happened? Well, he said, what's going on? And they said the man's daughter died. And he said, how old was the daughter? They said, a virtual infant. So Jesus said, let-- let me check this out. And so they let Jesus come in, and Jesus looked at the child, who had been dead long enough to start getting stiff from rigor mortis. And he said, this child is not dead, she's asleep. And then some of them had said, uh-huh, he's just as crazy as we thought they were-- that he was. So Jesus said, no, I-- I can't-- I don't know what that language means, talitha cumi. They didn't know what it meant either. And that little girl, she kind of quivered, then she stretched like a child does when she just wakes up. And she looked around. Her little eyes blinked like you're in the darkness and suddenly the room is flooded with light. And she saw her mother and she said, mommy. And her mommy said, daughter. And they embraced, and that was the first recorded incident of Jesus raising somebody from the dead. So that caused them to, in the quaint language of the Bible, to marvel. And the story was noise-- noised abroad, but others didn't believe it. He went along a little further and they said, you brought that little girl back alive. And Jesus didn't say yay or nay. They said, there's a madman in the cave. He screams. He hollers. He cuts himself. His beard hasn't been grown. So Jesus said, take me to him. And sure enough, it was a man in those days said to be possessed of a devil. So Jesus looked at him, and the devils knew Jesus. Jesus said, hit the road, Jack, and don't you come back no more, no more, no more, no more. And the devils hit the road. They said, but, Jesus, where are we to go? He said, see those swine? Go into the swine. And they said, well, the swine's better than nowhere, and they went into the swine. Then Jesus had the last laugh. They ran over a cliff, fell in the water, and all of them drowned. Now I don't know if devils can drown, but that's the story that they tell. Days went by and not much happened and Jesus became a preacher, an itinerant preacher, walked around just telling people, treat people the way you want to be treated, love your neighbor as yourself. And one guy said, I sure do, you ought to see my neighbor, she looks

prettier than-- well, they didn't have Brigitte Bardot in those days, but that would have been the equivalent of it-- it's easy to love my neighbor more than I do myself. And Jesus could read the hearts of men and Jesus sent a message to him, and that man didn't say that anymore. He skulked off like a cur that somebody had kicked. And Jesus didn't tell on him. That was between Jesus and the man. That's the way he was. If you didn't front him off, he didn't front you off. But if you fronted him off, he always had the last word. So he went up on this hill, a big meadow out there, so he decided to talk to a few people. The word went out: Hey, Jesus is talking. And they said, well, he might do some magic, let's go see what he does. So the crowd got bigger and bigger. And miraculously, although the crowd was as far as the eye could see, thousands of people, Jesus spoke like I'm speaking, but everybody heard every word that he said. And they were enraptured and fascinated. But as the day wore on and the sun beat down on them, they got hot and they got tired and they were hungry. They said, he brought us out here just to die. And there was a guy from Australia. And you know what he said? We just got here yesterday. You know, you have to kind of liven it up a little bit. So Jesus said, I don't ever bring people to me and they're worse off when they leave me than they were before. You are hungry? Anybody got any food? And there was one person who had brought his lunch. He had three little fishes and five loaves of bread. And the fish would have been considered like the sardines because they "odoriferated" for a great distance. And Jesus said, are you willing to share those? And the man thought Jesus was going to eat. So he said, I sure would. So Jesus said, everybody out there, you're not going to leave here hungry. And so he started breaking up the bread, breaking it and breaking it. And the original piece never got smaller. Pretty soon there was a pile of bread. His disciples got baskets and they carried the bread out there and fed everybody; and then the fish, did the same thing. All of them were fed. Now how could a man feed 5,000 with five-- three little fishes and five loaves of bread? It didn't say 5,000 people. It said 5,000. And I did a little research and they were ants. So that's how that story went. But then the story got serious. Jesus knew he had come to die because his father and he had talked it over. And Jesus went to this place called the Garden of Gethsemane and he prayed and he had his disciples with him. And by then, they had been with him. They had seen the kind of things he had done. But he also had to chastise them because they never seemed to understand what he was about. Some others were preaching and the disciples told them, you're not following Jesus, stop it. And Jesus said, wait a minute, if they're not against

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

me, they're for me, other sheep I have who are not of this fold. They said, we'll call fire down on them. Jesus said, you know not what spirit you're of, be quiet, think of what I've told you, listen and learn something. So they knew he-- how to-- knew how to do magic. So he went to the garden, disciples, ignorant as they remained. And he started talking to God. And God told him, Son, it's time, you got to go do this thing that you came down there for. He said, you mean I have to let these savages, these savages, these things take my life? God said, you knew that's what this was about. And so Jesus sweated so hard that the sweat fell down like drops of blood. And he said, Daddy, if it's possible, let me break this and don't make me do it. And God didn't say anything to let Jesus's mind work on him. So then Jesus said, OK, nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done, which showed that Jesus and God were not the same because Jesus would have been talking to himself. But anyway, Jesus said, let this cup pass from me. He said, uh-uh, you got to drain it to the last drop. Jesus said, you mean this is Maxwell House coffee? He said, uh-uh, that comes later, you won't even be around when that comes--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --don't jump the gun. So. Jesus went out there with his disciples. And what were they doing? [SNORING] And Jesus said, what? So he kicked Peter on the foot and Peter jumped up the made a loud noise and woke everybody up. He said, you could not watch with me one hour, I told you what I have facing me, you will not watch with me one hour. They said, we're sorry. So Jesus went back and prayed again and when he came out, the same thing. So then they were walking on off. And here comes Judas with these soldiers. And Judas said, the man that I kiss is the one you want. Well, if Jesus had healed the sick, raised the dead, and fed all those ants, then you know he'd be recognized, but the story had to go the way it had to unravel. So Jesus, Judas came up to him and kissed him. And Jesus said, so this is the way it's going to go.

WILLIAMS: Time. Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I actually punched my light a little while ago. During one of Senator Wayne's last floor speeches, he commented that I was kind of being loud off on the side. And I did want to say that that was me working on an issue with Senator Hilgers related to the COVID-19. I had an idea I was running past him. I didn't mean for that to be taken as being, you know, dismissive or inconsiderate of him speaking on the floor. That's just where-- a time where many things have to be happening at once, and unfortunately I was probably a little louder than I needed to be. So with that, I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Wayne, should he like it.

WILLIAMS: Senator Wayne, you're yielded 4:25.

WAYNE: Thank you for 4:25, Senator Hansen. Actually, I didn't think it was disrespectful. I was actually running out of things to say, so I looked back and I was commenting on the fact that you were making noise because I'm really trying to get better at-- I just don't have stories like Senator Chambers, like it's really hard for me to-- well, yeah, I don't-- yeah, I don't have stories, but I'll start with a story. I was sitting in a committee hearing one day. Nope, that doesn't sound very-- very good either. Anyway, this is a-- I know it's getting late. I know we're about to do a cloture vote and I know how that vote's going to go. And I know there are some upset people in this body about what happened today. But I would tell you that that same fire and that same energy, that blood, sweat, and tears that went into putting this budget together, Senator Stinner, doesn't go unnoticed. Doesn't go unnoticed, Senator Wishart. It doesn't go unnoticed, Senator Vargas, Senator Dorn-- I'm looking around-- Senator-- there you go, Senator-- he said, wait a minute, me-- don't forget me. OK. I'm just going to stop. But, no, it doesn't go unnoticed, Senator Clements and Senator Erdman. I recognize-- and Senator McDonnell-- when I hear about the long hours you all put in. And that's just what I was going to say, Senator Pansing Brooks. But many of the issues we work on are long hours. And the reality is this is a budget that goes-- a biennium budget that goes two years and this is just one year. And I can't keep stressing this, but I'm trying my hardest to not-- to-- I'm trying my hardest to code talk, as Senator Vargas said. But I can't ignore the-- the burden that I'm carrying. And I just-- I don't think people get that, that driving up and down my community, it hasn't changed in 40 years. I don't think people understand that I literally left a magnet school in middle school called King Science Center and went to Northwest High School, where I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

sat in the science classes for two years that just simply repeated themselves that I already learned in my freshman-- I mean my seventh grade or eighth grade year because that school was deemed a magnet school and my neighborhood school wasn't, so the funding. And that's why I get frustrated with OPS when they talk about inequity in funding. Go read the strategic plan and the needs analysis that we did when I was president. OPS has funding problems within its own district of how they equitably distribute the funds. But I can't ignore that, that dual education system. I can't ignore the fact that on the Learning Community, when it was founded, Senator Chambers and I voted 2 to 1 against another person on our subcouncil to start a hub zone, a hub facility at Adams Park, in which Senator Kolowski was there.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

WAYNE: We got NRD money and we were going to fundamentally start changing after-school and academic content, only to have OPS come down here and change the law to say that we couldn't build a facility. Remember that, Senator Kolowski? We had a whole plan designed to change north Omaha and this body took it away. Go drive by Adams Park right now. It's the same. The only thing changed was NRD built there, took away the softball fields and built upon that they were going to do a part of this facility. Nothing changed economically; nothing changed socially; nothing changed educationally for that area, because this body said no. I remember that. I can't change that and nor will I change that. I remember when--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

WAYNE: [INAUDIBLE]

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

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I'm going to hurry right along. And Senator Wayne's words were apropos. I'm going to collapse this story. The betrayal of our community can parallel the betrayal-- betrayal of this guy. One of his disciples betrayed him, Judas. One of his disciples, Peter, denied him three times, said, I don't even know him, and had walked with him. And Jesus told him before it happened, before that cock crows, you're going to deny me. And Peter said, no, I'm not. Peter means rock. This is the rock. This is rocky. But then when the chips were down, somebody said, weren't you with him? He

said, no, I wasn't with him. Then somebody else said, I'm sure I saw you with him. He said, with him? No, I wouldn't be with him. Then somebody else says, your speech gives you away. And then with an oath he denied him. Then he heard [CROWING] that was a cock crowing. And Jesus looked at Peter, and it's said he went out and wept bitterly. So Judas betrayed him. Peter denied him-- and by the way, your Governor's name is Peter-- and all the rest of them forsook him. And this man who, if the story was right, healed the sick, raised the dead, fed the hungry, cast devils out of people or, in other words, those who had mental illness, he came and he healed their broken minds, and what did they do to him? You know what they did to him. You see this corona, the crown of thorns, not to indicate majesty or kingliness but to humiliate, to degrade, to demean and torture him. When you do good, this is what happens to you. The blood flowed down. The sadness in his eyes, you can see the swelling around his eyes where they beat and buffeted him, one man against all of them, soldiers, and the religious people were behind it. And when there was a chance for him to have life, they put him out on the balcony, Pilate did, because the Jews had a custom where around Passover you could select anybody who is condemned and save his life. Jesus was there, and this thuggish man was there named Barabbas. And they said, who should we let you have? The people didn't know, so the religious said, Barabbas. So the multitude said, Barabbas. And Pilate said, what about your king? He's not our king. Say he said he's our king. Pilate said, what I've written, I've written, what should I do with him? And again, the crowd didn't know what to say, so the religious people said, crucify him. Then the multitude echoed, crucify the religious people. And that's what happened. He was condemned to die as criminals died under Roman rule. You would be nailed to a cross. But there was a platform for your feet to be on because your hands with nails wouldn't support the weight of your body. So he was dragging this cross. They had beaten him. They had taken a lot of his strength out. And so this black man, Simon-- Simon the Cyrenian, he pushed his way through the crowd and he said, I admire the way you've carried yourself, I cannot save your life, Rome has condemned you, but I don't have to let you suffer this final indignity, I'm not going to let you fall and that cross fall on you and maybe these people kick you and walk on you, I'm going to take the cross. So Simon took the cross--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --on one shoulder and wrapped that muscular black arm around this little beaten man, who had only healed the sick and raised the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

dead, and took him to the place of execution. Then the Italians crucified him. And after all the men had run off, there were women who stayed near. Now you all are going to have to read the "Bibble" to get the rest of it. But the women did not forsake him. The women did not betray him. The women did not deny him. And that's why women now are mistreated in the way they are. When you do good, bad things happen to you. But you have to believe in yourself, know that you're right, then go ahead. And the greatest love of all is to love yourself, first and foremost. That's why Jesus could say, love your neighbor as yourself. That's the end of the story. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion on the desk?

CLERK: I do. I have a priority motion. Senator Scheer would move to invoke cloture pursuant to Rule 7, Section 10.

WILLIAMS: It is the ruling of the Chair that there has been a full and fair debate afforded to LB1009. Senator Scheer, for what purpose do you rise?

SCHEER: Have a call the house, please? Thank you, Mr. President.

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

CLERK: 19 ayes, 2 nays to place the house under call.

WILLIAMS: 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 Cavanaugh, please check in. Senator Geist, please check in. The house is under call. Senator Morfeld, would you please report to the Chamber? All members are here. Members, the first vote is the motion to invoke cloture. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. There's been a request for a roll call vote on the motion to invoke cloture. Members, the voting system is reluctant to work correctly. We'll have to pause for a moment. Members, the first vote, again, that we will be taking is a motion to invoke cloture. You will vote aye for yes and nay for no. And we've requested a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Senator Albrecht. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Geist.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Aye.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hughes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

MCCOLLISTER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

MCDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. 38 ayes, 2 nays on the motion to invoke cloture.

WILLIAMS: The motion to invoke cloture is adopted. Members, the next vote will be on the adoption of the bracket motion to LB1009. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 2 ayes, 39 nays on the motion to bracket the bill, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: The amendment is not adopted. Members, the next vote will be on Senator Wayne's AM2919. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay.

WAYNE: Roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: There's been a request for a roll call vote.

CLERK: Senator Albrecht. Senator Arch.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

ARCH: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Bostelman.

BOSTELMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Brewer. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator DeBoer. Senator Dorn.

DORN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Erdman. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Geist.

GEIST: No.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Gragert. Senator Groene. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Matt Hansen.

M. HANSEN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: No

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Hughes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lindstrom.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

LINDSTROM: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Not voting.

CLERK: My voting. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Not voting.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Voting no.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Not voting. Not voting.

CLERK: I'm just-- just-- I hear you. Excuse me, Senator. Senator Vargas, not voting, is that right? Thank you. Senator Walz.

WALZ: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. 3 ayes, 22 nays on the amendment.

WILLIAMS: The amendment is not adopted. Members, the next vote will be on the adoption of the Appropriations Committee AM2738 to LB1009. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. There's been a request for a roll call vote in reverse order.

CLERK: Senator Wishart.

WISHART: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Williams.

WILLIAMS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Walz.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

WALZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Vargas.

VARGAS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Stinner.

STINNER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Slama.

SLAMA: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Scheer.

SCHEER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Quick.

QUICK: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Pansing Brooks.

PANSING BROOKS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Murman.

MURMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Moser.

MOSER: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Morfeld.

MORFELD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McDonnell.

McDONNELL: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator McCollister.

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lowe.

LOWE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Linehan.

LINEHAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lindstrom.

LINDSTROM: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Lathrop.

LATHROP: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator La Grone.

La GRONE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolterman.

KOLTERMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hughes. Senator Howard.

HOWARD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilkemann.

HILKEMANN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Matt Hansen.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

M. HANSEN: Yes. Voting yes. Senator Ben Hansen.

B. HANSEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Halloran.

HALLORAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Groene. Senator Gragert. Senator Geist.

GEIST: Yes.

CLERK: Voting-- voting yes? Thank you. Voting yes. Senator Friesen.

FRIESEN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Erdman. Senator Dorn.

DORN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. De Boer. Senator Crawford.

CRAWFORD: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Clements.

CLEMENTS: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: No.

CLERK: Voting no. Senator Cavanaugh.

CAVANAUGH: Not voting.

CLERK: Not voting. Senator Briese.

BRIESE: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Brewer. Senator Brandt.

BRANDT: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bostelman.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

BOSTELMAN: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Bolz.

BOLZ: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Blood. Senator Arch.

ARCH: Yes.

CLERK: Voting yes. Senator Albrecht. 38 ayes, 2 nays on adoption of committee amendments.

WILLIAMS: The committee amendment is adopted. Members, we will now vote on the advancement of LB1009 to E&R Initial. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the advancement of the bill.

WILLIAMS: The motion is adopted. LB1009 is advanced. Senator Chambers, why do you rise?

CHAMBERS: Point of personal privilege.

WILLIAMS: Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, note was taken of the fact that Senator Blood and Senator Brewer are somewhat under the weather. I feel that they are watching us, and I just want them to know that we wish them well, we expect them to get well, and we're awaiting their return. Senator Blood was a standby and a, believe it or not, a stabilizing force for me. We didn't always speak to each other, but we understood. There were times Senator Brewer and I could just exchange a glance without any words. So I probably miss both of them more than anybody else, and I just want them to know that what I'm saying goes for all of us. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Amendments to be printed: Senator Quick to LB840; Senator Stinner to LB1008; Senator Quick to LB424; Senator Hilgers to LB1186. A series of name adds: Senator Matt Hansen to LB43, LB283; Chambers, LB918; Blood, LB918; Chambers, LB962, LB1060; Matt Hansen, LB1089; Cavanaugh, LB1218; Matt Hansen, LB1218. Mr. President, Senator Scheer

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate March 12, 2020

would move to adjourn the body until Tuesday, March 17, 2020, at 9:00,
or at the call of the Speaker.

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