January 16, 1981

LR 5

what I consider to be foreign rather than domestic relations and I have no qualms about the fact that we are involved with foreign relations and I think perhaps we have the trade that we talked about with Taiwan and other countries but nevertheless, I am concerned about setting foreign policy in the Nebraska Legislature. I'm not sure this is the appropriate body to make those sort of decisions but I will wait to hear Senator DeCamp's explanation on those points.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I have several times made remarks on this floor about pooping money away with people going to foreign countries and the people in the State of Nebraska didn't poop any money away when a few of us went to Taiwan a few months ago. But having never been in the Orient before, I was very much impressed with the people, their kindness, their sincerity and actually their love for us in the United States and especially Nebraska which surprised me. I usually don't support wholeheartedly resolutions because as Senator Chambers suggested a while ago, many of these resolutions are meaningless. I don't think this is a meaningless one, however, because if our diplomatic relations continue as they are nationwide with the Republic of China, they may not have anybody with whom they can do business and the farmers in the State of Nebraska, I think, like to do business with foreigners who can pay cash for commodities that we produce. So, therefore, I wholeheartedly support this resolution.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, and Senator Landis, especially, I, too, was skeptical about some of the things we might get into by going to Taiwan but actually they will be here buying grain, generally from Nebraska. I think it is one of the greatest things that has happened to us, that we are able to deal more or less directly and those people deal with us because they are confident that we are going to deliver the kind of product that they want to buy from us. I don't know that anyone has mentioned, I haven't listened to all the speeches, but the balance of payments between the United States and Taiwan is much different than I thought it was. The balance of payments with Taiwan as I remember in round figures is about two and a half billion dollars in their favor. In other words, they are sending that much more product over here to us to buy than we are sending over there so I think it is very, very important that we deal with them. They are anxious to buy our grain, our products that we produce in Nebraska. Diplomatically I think it has probably no impact at all. It is