

January 11, 1982

LB 440

called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is ceased. Senator Kilgarin, do you wish to close on your bill?

SENATOR KILGARIN: Yes, thank you, Senator Clark. Members of the Legislature, some of the concerns raised were legitimate concerns and we will offer the amendment to absolutely clarify about the executive sessions on Select File. One thing that I would like to say is Senator Haberman was right about one thing and that was that the School Boards Association did not request this legislation. The students did. The young people of this state requested it. They want to become involved in the political process of this state. I would think all of you would want to support them in that effort. I remember when I was in high school I wanted very badly to be involved in government in the decision making process of our country but the opportunity was not always there and the school board did not send me invitations to their meeting. As a matter of fact they made me call three and four weeks in advance to be placed on the agenda. Many times I didn't know what was on the agenda and I didn't know how to find out what was on the agenda. I think this is an excellent opportunity for this State Legislature to tell the young people of Nebraska, the student councils of Nebraska, the student leaders of Nebraska that we appreciate their input, that we want their input. The young people of this state are very important to the political process. They need to begin learning because someday they're going to be down here making decisions like you and I are. I would appreciate your support of this bill. I really and truly don't understand what school boards and Senator Haberman are scared of. I really don't understand what they are scared of. I think it is time that we listen not only to the School Boards Associations and the other lobbyists groups, I think it's time we start listening maybe to some of the students and the people of this state and if you will look at the committee record you will see who testified in favor. There was only one person to testify in opposition to this bill. There were many students at the hearing. Not all of them testified but there were many students at the hearing there in support of the bill. I would certainly appreciate your report and I would like to defer the rest of my closing time to Senator Wiitala.

6468