

March 11, 1982

LB 547

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and particularly Senator Higgins, I would just say this, if Senator Fowler or Wesely are attorneys, I sure as heck don't want to be one.

SENATOR CLARK: Touché. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I hope the point has been made that LB 487 that Senator Wesely and I carried last year which dealt with a little different subject matter got amended as a courtesy to Senator Schmit who very simply wanted to put into place the recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Governmental Improvement and that simply was to eliminate the Department of Agriculture's inspections of hotels and inns. And along the way the Department of Agriculture said, you know, these statutes dealing with innkeeper liability are really archaic. We don't think they are of much value and why don't we just repeal those as well, and so that was included in the repealer for 487. So what clearly has happened since we did that is that the hotel folk and the innkeepers have come back and said they weren't really quite as archaic as the Department of Agriculture led you guys to believe and we ought to reinstate the statutes but we would like to at least...we will at least raise the old ceiling on innkeeper liability which used to be \$250, we will raise it to \$500. So that is what Senator Schmit has done with the bill. I think what he has done is fair. It simply reinstates a statute that we thought was archaic and out of place and out of date. We have folk coming back in and saying, no, it is really not and we need to have it, and we have lived with this system in Nebraska since like 1925, and, frankly, I don't see any big demand to change. So for that reason I would reject whoever's amendment this was and go ahead and read the bill on Final Reading.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp. The question has been called for, do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate has ceased. Senator Fowler, do you wish to close?