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LB 761

We have got to pay the public employees what they deserve and if we can't pay them that, then we need fewer public employees and fewer public programs. I believe this is the completely wrong approach and a nonconstructive approach.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: With the body's permission I call the question.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor signify by voting aye, opposed nay.

CLERK: Senator Nichol voting yes.

SENATOR NICHOL: Please vote. We are voting to cease debate. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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

SENATOR NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Howard Peterson, do you wish to close, please?

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I would just say that this is a basis on which we could save \$3.8 million which is important I think in this particular year. In answer to those that say it is not happening in the private sector, I would ask you to look at a number of the things that have happened in this state. I believe the largest gas company in this state has done exactly the same thing, have stopped giving any increases until the first of the year. I think industry is doing this continually and I don't think it is unreasonable for us to ask the state employees to stand on the same kind of a basis. I would ask for a Call of the House and a roll call vote.

SENATOR NICHOL: The question is, shall the House go under Call? All those in favor signify by voting aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 0 nays to go under Call, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: The House is under Call. Will all unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. All the Senators please take their seats and those within hearing distance of the voice please return to the Legislature so that we may have a vote on the amendment. While we are waiting, Senator Cope has forty-one nice 5th Graders up here in the north balcony from Donovan, Nebraska.