

CLERK: Mr. President, the next order of business is a motion offered by Senator Pirsch. She would move to rerefer LB 341 from the Government Committee, to the Government Committee from the Judiciary Committee. The motion was offered yesterday, Mr. President. It is found on page 402 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Pirsch, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR FIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Pages, I believe, are passing out a copy of my rationale for the change to rerefer LB 341 from Judiciary Committee to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. LB 341 proposes to amend Section 52-118 which deals with the duty of the State of Nebraska or any of its departments or agencies, county boards, contracting boards of villages, cities and school districts and all public boards authorized to enter into a contract for the purpose of erecting and furnishing or repairing any public building, bridge, highway or other public structure or improvement. Section 52-118 currently requires persons in corporations who enter into such contracts to obtain a bond in a sum not less than the contract price with a surety company if the laborers and suppliers have no lien to secure the payment of the wages and material being furnished in the property. LB 341 would amend this section and there is a strong precedent for referring LB 341 to the Government Committee. LB 217, which was introduced by Senator Scofield this session, was referred to the Government Committee. Among other things, LB 217 also amends Section 52-118 by providing that in lieu of the bond required under that section the public entities may take from the person or corporation to whom the contract is awarded in the amount of \$100,000 or less in the form of irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution or a cash payment in the sum not less than the contract price. In addition, LB 257, introduced this year or this session by Senator Baack, also proposes to amend Section 52-118 and that also was referred to the Government Committee. LB 211 and LB 680, both of which proposed to amend the same section as my bill, 52-118, were also referred to the Government Committee in the last session. Nothing contained in LB 341 even remotely suggests that it should be referred to the Judiciary Committee. We asked Jack Rodgers and he seemed to think that the first thing that caught his eye was the lien and, therefore, sent it to Judiciary, but I assure you that it deals with the bond and with public entities and really should be referred to Government. I am on Judiciary so I have no real problem with it being in my committee, but I think to