

the paper this morning. We're happy for you and for him and happy of his acceptance with the Lied Corporation, the City of Lincoln and the State of Nebraska, and certainly congratulations to you and to Mark for his great progress. We are mindful of it. We're proud of you. Also, Senator Dennis Byars, we haven't taken a vote on this but I think that most of us are happy to see you back and you apparently made it through the ordeal that you went through. So we're happy to have you back and we missed you and it's good to see you back. Mr. Clerk, shall we go on to General File at this time?

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, the first bill on General File this morning is LB 312 offered by Senators Withem, Lamb and Moore. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10 of this year, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Education Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem, do you wish to take up the amendments first or what?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I'll take up the amendments but in taking up the amendments will explain what the bill does because the amendments are very general and then, hopefully, we'll dispense with a lengthy introduction of the bill itself. Last year we passed LB 940 which was a bill dealing with the delicate subject of school district reorganization. A portion of the bill dealt with the question of school finance. Everybody that looks at the reorganization question concludes that very much right below the surface of the reorganization question is the question of how schools are financed. The Task Force that created a lot of what is in LB 940 suggested that we needed a thorough review of our school finance which we, as a Legislature, authorized that review to take place. We created a School Finance Commission and gave it about a \$100,000 appropriation to carry out its work. The Governor has appointed 16 members of that commission representing all aspects of the state. Three of those members are members of this Legislature. Senator Scott Moore, Senator Howard Lamb and me are the three legislative representatives. The commission has done a lot of work, has been meeting twice a month for four to five hours at a time. They have thoroughly examined all of the data we can find that deals with school finance and are well on our way...on their way to making a recommendation to the Legislature. The problem is we don't really know if we are going to get our work done by the