

the house again. (Laughter.) The question is, shall we break for lunch and come back at one-thirty? That is the question, shall we break for lunch and come back at one-thirty, yes or no? Questions, Senator Wehrbein. How about one o'clock, Senator Wehrbein says. We can say one o'clock and it will still be one-thirty, if our present pattern continues. A regular break, an hour and a half, twelve to one-thirty. Those in favor vote yes, those opposed no. They don't understand the vote. (Laughter.) Would you like to break for lunch at twelve o'clock and come back at one-thirty? If you would, vote green; if you wouldn't, vote red. Dutch treat. If you want to break for lunch, yes; if you don't, no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Twenty-one people prevail, we'll break for lunch. Thank you very much. Mr. Clerk, first bill on General File, LB 247. (Gavel.)

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 247 was a bill that was introduced by Senator Withem, with Senators Weihing, Scofield and Barrett adding their names as co-introducers. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to the Education Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please, on 247.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I thought we were breaking for lunch. Aren't we going to lunch now? LB 247 is a bill dealing with higher education. In and of itself, it's a relatively simple bill. The coincidental aspect of the folks at Kearney State coming to the Legislature this year asking for consideration for their proposal to be moved into the university system has somewhat complicated 247. I would like, in many respects, to keep the spirit of 247 alive throughout the process regardless of what you decide to do with Kearney State. I have an amendment that substantially...doesn't substantially change the bill, I think strengthens the bill that will be taken up here very quickly so I'm not going to use my full 10 minutes in an explanation of what 247 does. LB 247 though does deal with the ongoing...one of the many perpetual ongoing frustrations that I sense that this has and that's with what do we do with public higher education in Nebraska? We have three different systems. We have a university system. We have a college system. We have a community college system, all governed by different bodies, all in, many respects, making decisions about spending dollars, educating kids, planning the future of our state without