PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a quorum present.

PRESIDENT: Before we begin, may I introduce some guests please in the south balcony. Senator Wehrbein has 26 fourth graders from Louisville, Nebraska, and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us today. Mr. President, anything for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, new resolution, LR 77 by Senator Weihing asking the Legislature to recognize April as National Volunteer Month. That will be laid over, Mr. President. (See pages 1721-22 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) If I could have your attention, please. If you'd please take your seats as much as possible, we will begin by taking up LB 761. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 761 was introduced by Senators Schmit, Elmer, Kristensen, Morrissey, Beck, Lamb and Weihing. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 19 of this year, Mr. President, referred to the Natural Resources Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Natural Resources Committee.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, before we start, we'd like to have it a little quieter than we have it so that we can hear the speakers speak this afternoon. This is an important subject and I'm sure you're all interested, but we would like to have it down so that we can hear what is being said, please. Thank you. Senator Schmit, on the amendments. Did you wish to take the amendments first, or what?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Committee amendments, right?

PRESIDENT: Committee amendments. Okay, thank you.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, the committee amendments are rather substantial and I would appreciate it if you would note any questions you might have as we go through them and then call them to my attention immediately thereafter.