

PRESIDENT: Thank you. We'll move on to LR 234.

CLERK: Mr. President, 234 offered by Senator Hannibal. It is found on page 134 of the Journal. It asks the Legislature to declare the first day of every regular session of the Legislature as Nebraska Citizens Day and asks the Governor to issue a proclamation identifying Nebraska Citizens Day the first day of every legislative session.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hannibal, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This resolution was brought to me by a constituent and it's a fairly simple innocuous type of resolution, but has some merit I believe and been brought to you for your approval. What basically the resolution says is that we are inherently brought together by the citizens of the State of Nebraska and yet we do not recognize the citizens of Nebraska in general in any special way. And this constituent and, therefore, I felt that this resolution might be appropriate. And it says that we ought to recognize that the first day of each legislative session be considered Nebraska Citizens Day and that the Governor ought to issue a proclamation suggesting that the day, the first day of each session, be recognized as Nebraska Citizens Day. It's a simple resolution, that is all that it says, I would urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, we have some very serious issues that we're going to consider this session. There will be acrimonious and divisive debate. I'm going to have to take positions that will be unpopular, both in the minds of my colleagues and people outside this Legislature. When an issue arises with which I disagree I am compelled to speak against it and I may as well start now. First of all, there is an error in the presumption on which this resolution is based. This Legislature convenes to act for all persons, whether they are citizens or not. There are people who are not citizens of this country who nevertheless are protected in their rights by the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. Even though this is a simple resolution, I think it shows why we ought to scrutinize these things and stop bringing so many of them. I'm going to