

have made it through this Legislature, but one of the biggest stumbling blocks that I have confronted by the municipalities, in particular, has been the fact that many of our small communities simply cannot financially deal with this problem and need some state assistance and that is what the purpose of LB 163 is all about. But I would prefer, if we could, to move on to the motions pending. I believe there is a kill motion that is pending, as well, that we would like to get to.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Johnson. The Chair would like to take just a moment to share with the body a rather interesting matter which has occurred in the last few days and few weeks. The gavel used by the Chair has been under considerable duress the last three years and has now developed a split down through the middle of the block. This matter came to the attention of a former member of this august body, Senator Arnold Ruhnke, who many of you know, from Plymouth, Nebraska. Former Senator Ruhnke is a devotee of woodworking. It has been a hobby of his for many, many years. And January 1st of this year, it would have been 35 years since he was a freshman legislator here in this Chamber for I believe the next 22 years. He was around the Capitol I think as a senator for maybe 14 and then I think he remained as Executive Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials for several years beyond that time. Former Senator Ruhnke has kindly provided this Legislature with a brand new block and gavel made out of Jefferson County walnut. It is Speaker proof. Senator Ruhnke is with us today with his good wife. Arnold, would you please take a bow under the south balcony, and accept our gratitude, please. Thank you so very, very much. We are indebted to you, sir. Mr. Clerk, to the first amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Rod Johnson would move to amend the bill. Senator, I have your AM2018 in front of me.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I would like to ask to pass over that temporarily.

SPEAKER BARRETT: So be it.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Beck. Senator Beck, your amendment is on page 274 of the Journal.