

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

(Recorder malfunction.)

(Journal page 1139 shows the prayer was offered by Reverend Patsy Moore, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, Nebraska.)

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any corrections to the Journal today?

CLERK: I have no corrections this morning, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, at this time, I have no messages, reports or announcements.

PRESIDENT: In that case, let's go on to number 5 and LR 258.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 258 was a resolution introduced by Senator McFarland. It's found on page 897 of the Journal. (Read brief description of the resolution.)

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. President. This is a resolution that I brought with respect to some of the controversy that has occurred recently concerning the Department of Revenue and particularly how bonus payments have been awarded to employees within that department. This is an issue that arose when one of the employees requested, under the Public Records Act, a disclosure of the list of persons receiving bonus payments at the Department of Revenue. Allegations had been made in the papers by various political candidates that...and by others, that these awards of extra funds to particular members in the Department of Revenue staff were being given not on the basis of professional performance but on the basis of political loyalty. I will basically just read the resolution and go over it a little bit. There were payments of bonuses totaling \$66,295 in 1987-88; \$57,000 in the fiscal year 1989, '88-89. There was a request for disclosure and initially the Tax Commissioner and the Director of Personnel refused the employee's request for that information. And I also understand that there was a request by other citizens for that