

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, you are next, but may I introduce a couple of guests. The first one, our doctor of the day, is Dr. Kathy Bliese of Omaha, who is in Senator Beck's district. Dr. Bliese, would you please stand and be recognized. And, in addition to that, our Sergeant-at-Arms, Karl Kamprath, has a birthday today. Would you sing him happy birthday. Karl says he's over 65, so we'll let it go at that. Senator McFarland, please, on the amendment.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Yeah, thank you, Mr. President. Karl, happy birthday to you. Some very interesting things have been transpiring since I introduced this resolution. This has been very interesting to me. The first thing that happened, once the resolution was introduced, I had a visit from the Tax Commissioner and the Director of Personnel who said and explained to me why the information was not being released and asked if I would wait until an Attorney General's Opinion be rendered and I told them I would think about it and see what particularly would be appropriate and talk with my fellow...some of my fellow senators on it. I decided to ask that it be delayed for at least a short time if the Attorney General's Opinion was forthcoming, with the idea that if there was a clear indication in the Attorney General's Opinion that I thought there should be that this information should be disclosed, then we wouldn't have to take up the resolution. And had there been a clearer announcement from the Attorney General's Office that, yes, this information had to be disclosed, then there would have been no problem, we would not have had to discuss this resolution. Then the Attorney General's Opinion comes out and if you read it, it is very...rather unclear. It's somewhat more confusing than it is clarifying. I don't agree with the interpretation that was put on it, and so I asked, as a result of that, that the resolution be introduced and that we express the Legislature's intent on whether this information should be disclosed. Now this...and I read in the newspaper Friday that the Tax Commissioner was going to withhold the information in light of the Attorney General's Opinion. Now, this morning, just before I take the floor, I hear from the Tax Commissioner and the Director of Personnel saying, well, they have changed their view, they are going to release the information and that is fine. I appreciate that. But that does not necessarily mean that the resolution isn't appropriate because I think it needs...the department heads need guidance when they're confronted with the question of how this...how bonus payments