

January 30, 1991 LB 17

could you handle the committee amendments?

SENATOR WITHEM: Certainly, Senator Baack, I would be happy to. The bill, LB 17, is a bill dealing with the payment of petition circulators. I will explain the bill in my opening. Basically, the committee amendments are clarification in nature. The bill originally could be read to state that petition circulators could be paid no more than the minimum wage. That is not our intent. Our intent was to make sure they are paid on an hourly basis as opposed to a head count basis. I should say they should be paid at least the minimum wage. That is what the committee amendment does. Second, the bill makes a reference to unemployment compensation, employers having to pay unemployment compensation to their employees that are carrying petitions. After visiting with the people in the Department of Labor, they indicate that this will automatically happen, and the manner in which we have it written in the bill may cause some questions in the future. So because it will automatically happen once they meet the threshold of the amount of wages paid and because it may cause some problems, we are suggesting that that reference be taken out of the bill for purposes of clarification. If you have any questions about the committee amendments, Senator Conway will be happy to answer them now that he is back.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Schrock, do you wish to speak on the amendments? Anyone else wish to speak on the amendments? Seeing no one, we will proceed to vote on the committee amendments to LB 17. All those in favor please say (sic) aye, all those opposed please vote nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Committee amendments are adopted. Now we will proceed with debate on LB 17, the motion to advance to E & R. Senator Schrock. Excuse me, I am sorry, I did not realize Senator Withem hadn't opened yet. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, I understand the confusion beings I did handle the committee amendments, but I would like to talk just a little bit about the bill before we get into debate on it. A little history behind this bill, Nebraska, traditionally,