

May 10, 1991

LB 798, 855

vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Record vote read. See pages 2051-52 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 37 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 11 excused and not voting.

PRESIDENT MOUL: LB 798 passes with the emergency clause. I would like to direct the senators' attention now to the south balcony. Guests today of Senator Withem are 60 fourth graders from Parkview Heights Elementary in LaVista and their teachers. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber this morning. Thank you. We will now proceed with General File. We will start with LB 855.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 855 was introduced by the Appropriations Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on May 1 of this year. At that time, it was referred to the Education Committee for public hearing. There are committee amendments pending by the Education Committee.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, the committee amendments to 855, in essence, I think become the bill if the body chooses to adopt them. This is a bill that was introduced at the request of the Appropriations Committee to change the fee for teachers' certificates. They are currently at \$25; \$12.50 of that goes to fund the cost of the department in issuing certificates. The other 12.50 goes to fund the Professional Practices Commission. The Professional Practices Commission is a group that reviews complaints against teachers and makes a determination as to whether or not teachers' certificates should be revoked or whether they should be retained. The Appropriations Committee, in setting the budget, came to the conclusion that that current \$25 fee would not provide a proper cash flow to fund the current cost of teachers certification, nor the current funding for the Professional Practices Commission. So the recommendation of the bill was that teachers certificates be doubled to \$50; \$25 to teacher certification, \$25 to Professional Practices Commission. The committee, after hearing the justifications for this increase, by and large, bought the justification for the increase for teacher certification functions of the Department of Education. We are