

for the record?

CLERK: I do, Madam President, thank you. The Committee on Judiciary reports LB 538 to General File; LB 283, General File with amendments; LB 524, General File with amendments. Senator Coordsen has amendments to be printed to LB 830. And resolution by Senator Witek, LR 59, declaring the week of February 21-26 as the Nebraskans Celebrate Outdoor Sports Week. That will be laid over. (See pages 832-34 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Before we proceed, I would like to call the Legislature's attention to the north balcony where Senator Schimek has 35 sixth graders from West Lincoln Elementary School as her guests, along with their teachers. Would you please welcome these young people. And would you please stand and be welcomed by your Legislature. Now, LB 828, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 828 introduced by Speaker Withem and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 19 of this year, referred to the Natural Resources Committee for hearing, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Warner, would you like to introduce the comm...I looked at the wrong committee, Senator. I've got something about you this morning, Senator Warner. Senator Beutler, would you like to open on the committee amendments?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, I would. Members of the Legislature, the committee amendments are relatively simple to understand. Two are quite technical in nature and the third is not technical but easy in concept. However, before I relate to you the one meaningful committee amendment, it would probably be helpful to you to understand a little bit more about what the bill is about. And so, with the permission of Senator Withem, I will undertake to give you the basic concept of the bill. But 828, obviously, is the third peg, the third leg of the chair on this economic development package and it involves strictly electric utilities and it involves the ability of a particular electric utility to, if they should so choose, this is a "may", not a mandatory direction of any sort, the directors of a district may, if they so choose, negotiate, fix, establish and collect rates, etcetera, which are different from rates and