

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Mr. President, I would move to advance LB 856 to E & R for engrossment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: The motion is the advancement of LB 856. All those in favor say aye, opposed nay. Nay. The motion (laughter). Let me do that again for the record. The motion is the advancement of LB 856. All those in favor say aye. Opposed. The bill is advanced. The call is raised. We'll move on to General File, LB 286, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, 286, a bill introduced by Senator Withem. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Government Committee, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill at this time, Mr. President.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, LB 286 is a bill that came from the Government Committee. It is a Sarpy County bill, as you might have been able to guess if you look at the list of the introducers of the bill. It is one of those types of bills that you've had brought to you any number of times over the last few years that impact upon Sarpy County. Sarpy County, as you know, is a county that has grown considerably over the last 15 or 20 years. Typically, in the statutes we make distinctions as to how the various provisions of statute apply to different counties based on their population. This particular bill deals with the county's abilities to acquire, purchase, construct, renovate, remodel, furnish, equip, add to, improve or provide suitable courthouse, jail or other county buildings. Currently, once a building improvement or a construction project goes over a particular dollar amount, based on the size of the county, it has to be submitted to the voters for their approval. Currently, in a county of over 250,000 inhabitants that level is \$2 million. For counties between 150,000 inhabitants, having excess of 150,000 inhabitants, that level is \$1 million. Currently, for counties with 100,000 inhabitants it's \$300,000 and so on down the line. What this bill would do, it would change that limitation between the 1 million level and the 300,000 level to be 100...to be 100,000 as opposed to 150,000. The only county that would apply to would be Sarpy County. The net effect of this would be to allow Sarpy County commissioners the authority to do \$1 million worth of acquisition, purchase, construction, renovation, remodel, etcetera, on their county courthouse