

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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March 25, 1999 LB 324

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...approve this council first of all does very little because of the way we handle appointments. We always give the Governor the benefit of the doubt. It has been extremely rare, almost nonexistent in all my time in the Legislature, that we've ever contested an appointment, and I can't remember, Senator Chambers, can you, when we've ever rejected an appointment by a Governor?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: But...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator, I apologize. I didn't give you adequate warning. If I could have your attention, I'd like to make a special announcement. The doughnuts today have been provided for you in honor of Sally Gordon's 90th birthday. You all join me in acknowledging and wishing Sally a Happy 90th Birthday. For further discussion on AM0997 to LB 324, Senator Byars, followed by Jensen and Beutler.

SENATOR BYARS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll speak briefly and give the rest of my time to Senator Beutler. Senator Beutler and I have had several discussions relative to this. I was not in the body when LB 1070 was passed and the Health Care Trust Fund established. I am totally in favor of the...I'm totally in favor of the use of these dollars for healthcare and related healthcare projects in the state of Nebraska, but as I have gone back and I've read the testimony before the committee, read the debate here on the floor of the Legislature, I also share some of the same concerns, possibly not all and possibly not all with the same results, with Senator Beutler. But I'm concerned about the power that we're vesting in this commission and in the executive branch. I, certainly, am going to support this amendment. I think it's appropriate. It is in no way different from the way we've conducted business in the past. But I see, as we look at healthcare in particular in this state, that we have many times false started on some very, very worthwhile projects when we get into a granting process, and I think healthcare and healthcare matters need to be treated with