on 326 (sic).

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body.
LB 236 simply adds three words to a bill that was introduced and
passed by this body last year concerning energy financing
contracts, sometimes called performance-based contracts.   These
are available to governmental units, and in the bill that was
described, previous to this, was school districts, village,
city, county or department or agency of the state of Nebraska.
The only words that we're adding to this is...are the words
"community college area", those three words.   It allows the
community colleges to also participate in this energy financing
contract.   That's all the bill does.   I would urge its adoption.
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the opening.   Debate on
advancement of the bill.   Senator Jensen, you're recognized to
close.   He waives closing.   The question before the body is,
shall LB 236 advance to E & R Initial?   All those in favor vote
aye; all those opposed vote nay.   Please record.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of
236.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: LB 236 advances.   LB 115.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Bill 115 offered by Senator
Vrtiska.   (Read title.) .cm end for 5-28-99 1mb The bill was
introduced on January 7, referred to Health and Human Services
Committee.   The bill was advanced to General File.   I do have
committee amendments.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Vrtiska, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body.
LB 115 is a somewhat simple bill, yet a very important bill.
And this bill would eliminate the requirement that a critical
access hospital be...it would eliminate the requirement that a
critical care hospital be less than 20 miles from another in
order to be fully reimbursed for Medicare payment.   As most of
you know, many of our small hospitals are highly dependent on
Medicare patients, because that's what the majority of their