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February 22, 2005 LB 570

have been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Excuse me. Discussion on the advancement of LB 570? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis, again, just one more provision--page 71, lines 10 through 12. And I'm probably doing this just so I can whine a little more about the direction in which some things are going. But I think it's a very interesting lesson to us. This provision says, as you can see now: This article--with respect to what we're doing here today--this article is subject to any treaty of the United States or statute of the United States or regulatory statute of this state to the extent that the treaty, statute, or regulatory statute is applicable. What caught my eye about this provision is just the reference to treaties. And let me ask you a simple question. If a Nebraska farmer enters into an agreement that's governed by this law,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Landis, would you yield?

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...with an importer in China, and if, to make an exaggerated case out of it, our treaty with the country of China said the commercial law of China shall apply to all transactions between...to all commercial transactions between China and the United States, does that mean that everything in this code would go, and we're simply subject to whatever the federal negotiators put into treaties with regard to any of our commercial relationships?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes. Treaties are part of the hierarchy of law. They are the very first notch under the federal constitution. Treaties trump all state law, and treaties trump federal law, congressional law, statutory law. It goes: constitution, treaty, federal law, state constitution, state law. And treaties trump everything, including federal law, below them.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And that relationship, if so solidly in law,