

March 17, 1988

LB 165, 257, 320, 384, 384A, 817, 819
821, 834, 842, 855, 864, 939, 961
962, 996, 1010, 1045, 1046, 1051, 1064
1127
LR 337, 338

things?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Isn't that the American way?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That is the cutthroat, barely within the law way of insurance companies and these other operations, so since they are going to be allowed to rob people legally, the least we can do is minimize what the state is going to give them in the form of a tax break that may be made upon the backs of the poor some day. But with Senator Haberman's amendment and the change in the formula that Senator Ashford's amendment will make, the bill is not as unpalatable as it was before. Senator Hefner, what they have succeeded in doing with the adoption of Senator Ashford's amendment and the adoption of this one is to put a thick enough coating of sugar on this very unwholesome substance that if you swallow it without biting through that sugary coating, you won't know what you have swallowed until the sugar has dissolved in your stomach and it begins to work as it is bound to work and at that time, if it's necessary, we can make an adjustment.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Higgins, would you care to speak to the Haberman amendment?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, I move we adjourn until 9:00 a.m., March 18.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Do you have anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I do. I have a new resolution, LR 337 by a number of senators asking that the Legislature declare March 20 through the 26th as Agriculture Week. (See page 1503 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a communication from the Governor. (Read communications from Governor as found on pages 1502-03 of the Legislative Journal. Re: Signing of LB 257, LB 320, LB 384, LB 384A, LB 821, LB 834, LB 842, LB 864, LB 165, LB 817, LB 819, LB 939, LB 961, LB 962, LB 996, LB 1010, LB 1045, LB 1046, LB 1051, LB 1064 and LB 1127.)

Mr. President, two other resolutions, LR 338 by Senator Johanns

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: (Microphone not activated immediately) ...George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We have with us this morning, as our Chaplain, Pastor Steve Gilchrist of the First Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Would you please rise.

PASTOR GILCHRIST: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Thank you, Pastor Gilchrist. Roll call, please.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do you have any corrections this morning?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Just one item and that is that LR 325 is ready for your signature.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 325. Move on to resolutions, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 337 was offered by a number of the members. It's found on page 1503. (Read explanation of LR 337.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Miller, please.

SENATOR MILLER: Mr. President and members, it does give me great pleasure to introduce this resolution. I think it's the first resolution that I have introduced but this one is of utmost importance. We are celebrating National Agriculture Week, Nebraska being a major state in the production of agricultural products, this resolution was brought to this Legislature. And I will read you two Whereases and then the Resolve and a few statistics, if I may. Whereas, agriculture is the backbone of Nebraska's economy and one of the most important industries in the United States; and Whereas, National Agriculture Week was established to focus national attention on the agriculture industry and to allow farmers and ranchers the

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LB 764A
LR 337

opportunity to communicate their message to the nation; be it, therefore, resolved that the Legislature of Nebraska declares March 20-26 as Agriculture Week in Nebraska and March 20 as Agriculture Day...yesterday was Agriculture Day; I celebrated it with the weather, I hope each one of you did also...in conjunction with National Agriculture Week. That the Legislature urges all Nebraskans to honor and thank Nebraska farmers and ranchers by encouraging their support of and participation in National Agriculture Week in Nebraska. I will give you a little bit of history. In 1980, National Agriculture Day was designated an official national observance by the President and the Congress and we have celebrated it since. A few statistics that I am proud to read are that 2.2 million American farmers provide food and fiber for 251 million people. And, if you break that down, that's each farmer produces food and fiber for 114 other people and I think it's produced very reasonably. People in the United States can purchase their food for an average outlay of 14.4 percent of their after-tax income. This is down from about 20 percent, 25 years ago. And an interesting statistic as to what's happening in the United States, eating at home takes 9.7 percent of the after-tax income and eating out takes 4.7 percent. Farmers get 25 cents of the consumer's food dollar spent for food raised on the United States farm. That's again down from 32 cents, 20 years ago. On an average, a one pound loaf of bread contains 3.5 cents worth of wheat and a half cent worth of other farm products. Four cents of your local bread goes back to agriculture or agriculture related business. This is the last statistic I will read to you. Agriculture, in a broad sense, encompasses production inputs made for farmers, farming, itself, and the processing, transportation and retailing that move food and fiber from the farmers to consumers. The economic activity employs 21 million people and accounts for 17 percent of the nation's gross national product. I would encourage you to support this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the resolution. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 23 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 337.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Move on to General File, LB 764A.

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LB 1237

LR 337

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: (Microphone not activated immediately.)
...Legislative Chamber. We have with us today, as the chaplain of the day, Mr. Don Hale of the Evangelical Free Church in Stromsburg, Nebraska. Would you please rise for the convocation.

REVEREND HALE: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Reverend Hale, please come back again to see us. Roll call vote, please.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do we have any corrections for the Journal this morning?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have only one item and that is that LR 337 is ready for your signature. That is it, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business I propose to sign and do sign LR 337. May I take this opportunity to invite...to welcome some guests in the north balcony this morning. Senator Rod Johnson has 17 seniors, the government class of Palmer, Nebraska and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us this morning. We'll begin on General File, appropriation bill 1237.

CLERK: Mr. President, 1237 is a bill introduced by the Appropriations Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on March 3, Mr. President, and referred directly to General File.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a civil action claims bill, has a total of approximately \$40,000 in it, \$35,000 or so of it is General Fund money in essence. This is a series of smaller claims, all of which were