

January 17, 1990

LB 259, 272A, 969, 987, 1041, 1114, 1170-1180
LR 241

CLERK: (Read roll call vote. See page 365 of the Legislative Journal.) 27 ayes, 13 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to suspend the rules.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. The call is raised. Do you have anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Yes, I do, Mr. President. Mr. President, a notice of hearing from the Natural Resources Committee, signed by Senator Schmit as Chair. (Re: LB 969, LB 987, LB 1041. See page 365 of the Legislative Journal.)

I have amendments to be printed by Senator Haberman to LB 259. (See page 366 of the Legislative Journal.)

I have a motion from Senator Lamb regarding LB 1114. That will be laid over. (See page 366 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, new constitutional amendment, LR 241CA offered by Senator Hall. (Read brief description. See pages 366-67 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, new bills. (Read LBs 1170-1180 by title for the first time. See pages 367-70 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President. Yes, sir. Mr. President, I guess a reminder, excuse me, Reference Committee at three-thirty. Reference Committee at three-thirty in Room 2102. That is all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Jacky Smith, would you like to adjourn us until nine o'clock tomorrow morning, please?

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, I...I don't know what to say. Vote to stay here? I would like to ask that the body be adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. You've heard the motion. All in favor say aye. Opposed nay. We are adjourned until nine o'clock tomorrow. Thank you.

Proofed by:

Arleen McCrory
Arleen McCrory

January 19, 1990

LB 272A, 1117, 1135, 1172-1242
LR 242-245

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We are happy to have with us this morning as our Chaplain of the day, Mr. Gerry Harris, who is the Executive Secretary of the Gideons, and lives in Lincoln. Would you please rise for the invocation.

MR. GERRY HARRIS: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Harris. We appreciate your coming and giving us the benediction, not the benediction, the invocation this morning. Roll call, please.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Do you have any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a Reference Report referring LBs 1172-1242, and LRs 242-245, signed by Senator Labedz, as Chair of the Reference Committee. Senator Coordsen gives notice of hearing for the Business and Labor Committee for February 5 and January 29. (Re: LB 1135, LB 1117.)

I have a report of registered lobbyists for the week of January 18, and, Mr. President, an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Landis regarding LB 272A. (See pages 421-24 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President,

PRESIDENT: We will move on, Senator Lamb, are you in position to handle that confirmation report. Okay.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, and members, I would offer to the body the confirmation report for Mr. Myers.

CLERK: Senator, yeah, Lawrence Myers, the Nebraska Power Review Board.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. Myers appeared before the Natural Resources Committee about two days ago and he is a reappointment. He was appointed, I believe, late last year and there was no opposition to his reappointment, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend that Mr. Myers be appointed to

February 15, 1990 LB 313, 690, 903, 937, 988, 1020, 1113
1173

to General File, that is signed by Senator Wesely. Transportation Committee reports LB 690 to General File, LB 937 General File with amendments, LB 988 General File with amendments, LB 1020 General File with amendments, 11...those are Transportation bills, those are signed by Senator Lamb. Business and Labor reports LB 1173 to General File with amendments. That is signed by Senator Coordsen. Judiciary reports LB 1113 to General File. That is signed by Senator Chizek. And Retirement Systems Committee reports LB 903 to General File. That is offered by Senator Haberman. (See pages 823-29 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would move at this time for the advancement of LB 313 as amended.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, on the advancement of the bill, please.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Begrudgingly, move for advancement, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, discussion, further discussion? Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I really...I don't know if I can begrudgingly move for advancement. I know the people that were part of the compromise are saying we need the 10, if we can get only 10, we'll take it. If that's the only crumb we're going to give them...I don't know, I just don't know whether I can vote for it or not. I agree they are in trouble when...you're really in trouble when you have to swallow what these folks are having to swallow and accept this \$10 amendment, or \$10 increase, a dollar something per day. And I'm still considering and I'd like to get some feedback from the body, I guess, on my amendment to issue this in a separate check. I really do think it would be good for all of us, politically, to let the folks know how generous we have been to them, let them know, because, like I said, these people are liable to blow that ten bucks, two gallons of milk, two boxes of corn flakes, ten bucks right down the drain, and they're liable to blow it and not realize that we gave them this increase, not realize that the Nebraska Legislature and the

February 20, 1990 LB 39, 290, 339, 618, 688, 771, 899
900, 941, 980A, 982, 990, 1009, 1032
1041, 1066, 1073, 1080, 1173, 1195, 1195A
1200, 1219, 1236, 1240
LR 257

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any discussion? If not, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. To the bill as amended. Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, I think the bill, as explained, as I mentioned, the amendment became the bill, and that is what we're dealing with now. I think I've explained that, some of the other senators, I think, have also discussed that. What I'd do is just be available to answer questions.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any discussion? Any questions? If not, those in favor of the advancement of the bill to E & R initial please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 688.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 688 is advanced. Matters for the record, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Speaker announces selection of Speaker priority bills that include LB 39, LB 290, LB 339, LB 618, LB 771, LB 899, LB 900, LB 941, LB 982, LB 1009, LB 1032, LB 1041, LB 1066, LB 1073, LB 1173, LB 1195, LB 1200, LB 1219, LB 1236, and LB 1240.

Mr. President, new A bills, (Read LB 980A and LB 1195A by title for the first time. See page 867 of the Legislative Journal.)

A reminder, Mr. President, the Urban Affairs Committee will meet in Exec Session at three o'clock this afternoon. Revenue Committee will hold an Exec Session at one-twenty in the Senate Lounge; Revenue, one-twenty in the Senate Lounge, Mr. President. Senator Haberman has amend...or would like to add his name to LB 1080 and to LB 990 as co-introducer.

Mr. President, new resolution offered by Senator Chambers. (Read brief synopsis of LR 257. See pages 867-68 of the

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members, I also rise to support this amendment. I think if you will look at the caliber of the labor force in Nebraska, we have a very good work ethic in this state and I think we need to protect that and I think by going ten and ten, I think that's a very good compromise. The committee amendments were eight and eight and I think that this, even though it hasn't been agreed upon by everyone, I think it is a very good compromise and very fair. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President and members, I rise in support of Senator Coordsen's amendment to the committee amendments. I also think that it is an extremely difficult area to deal with. Sometimes, no matter what you give, it's not enough and it is difficult to run that fine line. I would like to see it increase, but I do appreciate the effort, the work that Senator Coordsen has put into this and I would urge the body to adopt the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Coordsen, closing statement.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Move the adoption of the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Coordsen amendment to the committee amendments. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Coordsen's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend the committee amendments. Senator, I have your AM2508 in front of me.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, this amendment adds in LB 1173. LB 1173 was heard by the Business and Labor Committee and what it does, it provides for a

sometimes to have the World-Herald support increasing the unemployment compensation or the worker's compensation, at least I can't recall them ever doing that. And every word that they have said in a long two-column editorial is very good, but I would like to at least read part of it. The most an unemployed worker can receive currently is 134 per week. Not everyone who qualifies for unemployment benefits receive the maximum, however, the amount depends on the person's earnings in the previous three months. Some unemployed people receive as little as \$20 a week. The payments which are financed from employers' contributions stop after 26 weeks. LB 316 (sic) would boost the minimum of \$25 and the maximum of \$168 a week. Those are not excessive amounts for a person who must provide food and shelter for a family while looking for another job. Then it goes on a couple paragraphs asking or saying that it is also right to raise the workers' comp or a job related disability and, of course, we've had that here before. The last paragraph is interesting. It says, recent improvements in Nebraska's business climate have provided more jobs and opportunities for workers, improving the benefits for unemployed and injured workers should be the next step. And I am so pleased to see that the committee amendment received as many yes votes as it did because evidently we agree with this statement and I strongly believe that we should do this and possibly even more, but I will be happy to see LB 315 advance to Select File as amended. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall. Amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend. Senator, 2508, AM2508.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, I will now offer this amendment to the bill. This is the same amendment that I offered to the committee amendment and the Speaker ruled that it was not germane. But what this amendment would do would disqualify from insurance benefit those employees that were dismissed for illegal drug use. Like I said before, unemployment compensation benefits are for an employee when he loses his job through no fault of his own. I believe that when a person is dismissed for illegal drug use, that he could have prevented that and so I offer this amendment. This amendment is the same as LB 1173 which Senator Coordsen and I introduced before the Labor Committee. It was advanced out of the

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, just remind Senator Kristensen what he said about it being the definitional section and, therefore, germane. I'm not commenting one way or the other beyond that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else care to speak? Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support the ruling of the Chair. The original LB 1173, as introduced, was not very well constructed in that it put in jeopardy, because of the placement of language, our current disqualification standards which basically are used in other substance abuse cases, as well as physical abuse, as well as thievery, other gross misconduct. My aide and myself spent I suppose the better part of 30 calendar days working with the Department of Labor and in cooperation with the Federal Department of Labor adjusting 1173. If we're serious in our aim to have a drug-free workplace, then because of the difficulty in determining substance abuse, when compared to the abuse of our other controlled substance or I almost believe uncontrolled substance, alcohol, that we need to be aware of those problems. There are situations that can exist today where an employee, especially in the trucking industry, can fail the mandated Department of Transportation drug test, not be able to drive. If the employee (sic) fires them, because they cannot perform the task that they were employed for, and they don't become employed within seven to ten weeks, they can begin to draw unemployment from that employer's trust account. I would suggest to you also that I have an amendment to this amendment that will be coming up, if we do not overrule the Chair, that would further encourage our efforts in the area of a drug-free work place aims, and that would be that for employees that were disqualified from unemployment under the gross misconduct section, because of either possession of a controlled substance in the work place or failure of the statutorily described and mandated...not mandated but enabled test, that those employees would be able to, if they enrolled in an approved drug treatment program, be paid their unemployment out of a separate fund to be created within the Department of Labor. So I would suggest that we should take this issue up today and discuss it in context with the rest of the unemployment issues that we've mentioned. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Anyone else care to speak to the

abuser. So we drafted the amendment that is being handed out, two pages. And basically the wording in this provides that when a person is fired, because of the provisions that are in AM2508 in gross misconduct and, if they enroll in an approved drug treatment program and continue in that program, in order to encourage them to do that we should find a way of paying the unemployment. We can't take it out of the trust fund, nor should the employees experience account suffer from that and perhaps the rate that they might be paying. But as society maybe we should do something. In the Department of Labor there is a special contingent fund that accumulates from fines and penalties that can be used at the direction of the Legislature or the Governor for job related issues. It appeared to me that there might be no better use for these funds than to encourage unemployed persons to seek treatment, to have a little mercy on their family, to provide some amount of income to them while they're undergoing this process. So, with that in mind, I introduced this amendment just a few minutes ago. And it also provides that, if there isn't enough money in the contingency fund, that the Legislature, from time to time, would appropriate such funds as necessary from the General Fund. Before all of the fiscal conservatives come unglued on this floor, as I recall the estimate from the Department of Labor there would probably no fewer than 100 people in the course of a year be discharged under LB 1173, and certainly not all of those would be willing to go into a treatment program. If they all were willing, and if they all were at the maximum rate, it would take a little less than...well, on an annual basis, if you always had 100 in the program, it would take a little less than \$500,000 to pay that unemployment, to give them a little money for groceries or whatever, to put a cheap pair of tennis shoes on the feet of their children. So I offer this amendment to the Hefner amendment as something that I believe that we should do. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the amendment offered by Senator Coordsen? Senator Hefner, would you care to discuss it? Senator Morrissey on deck.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. I think this is a terrific amendment, because I know like in Business and Labor Committee we were talking about how can we help these people, how can we help these people that need help so badly. And it says right here that they will receive the benefits, the same amount as we

pay in unemployment compensation benefits, they will receive the same amount in those benefits, if they are discharged by an employer and convicted of using drugs, or even if they refuse testing. So I think this is a good way to help them. Like the senator said that this would be paid out of that contingency fund, which is...the money is raised by the fines and from the Department of Labor. And so I certainly think that this would certainly add to the amendment that I've introduced. So I would encourage you to support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, followed by Senator Crosby and Elmer.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I would rise in support of Senator Coordsen's amendment. It was one of the things that we discussed in Business and Labor that we had problems with on this disqualification for unemployment. In our rush to punish, our rush to get tough on the "drug abusers" we often enact laws that sometimes have the opposite effect. To take away the benefits from a person can drive them farther into the spiral of drug abuse, low self-esteem, and as Senator Coordsen mentioned have an adverse effect on their family. I think you should support Senator Coordsen's amendment because, as he said earlier, it's the fair thing to do, it's the right thing to do, and then we can discuss the entire amendment later. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, would you care to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR CROSBY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I do support the amendment. And I was having a little trouble with having LB 1173 amended into this bill for several reasons, one of which has been mentioned. But one of the reasons is that under 1173, as it stands alone, alcoholism was not mentioned. And I think alcoholism, we all recognize, is a drug. Alcohol is a drug, and I think it should be a part of this amendment. So I like Senator Coordsen's amendment into it. In general, I particularly am concerned about drugs and alcohol and usage on the job in any job that concerns the safety of other people. And so when I first learned that 1173 was going to be amended into this bill, I wasn't too enthusiastic about it because it seemed like we were saying, here we're going to give you a raise in unemployment, except we're not going to allow you to have it, if you don't do all these other things. But by putting this

conceivably have another sizable impact over and above the numbers I've been discussing which were difficult to estimate, and perhaps alcohol ought to be taken out of the bill at some point, or if not taken out it ought to be funded not through this system but funded through our traditional system that we already have in place for alcohol treatment. If Senator Coordsen would answer or comment on those questions, and if there is not enough time left on my time, if he would use part of his time, I'd appreciate it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Warner.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: I think...am I next in the lights, or will it have to come down the line?

SPEAKER BARRETT: You're the number two light.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay. Senator Warner raises two questions that I think should be discussed right at this point in time. All of the discussions that we've had in the committee hearings relative to LB 1173 and on the floor with the amendment that was attached centered around controlled substances other than alcohol. However, 48-1903, I believe is the right correction (sic) of statute, addresses both substance...controlled substance abuse, drugs, or whatever definition you want to do, in addition to alcohol. The figures that I received from an estimate from the Department of Labor, of the hundred that I quoted several times, was an estimate by the Department of Labor as to the substance abuse or the drug side of that testing program.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Thank you. Let's go to Senator Morrissey, please, would you care to discuss the advancement. And then back to you, Senator Coordsen. Thank you.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I guess there is quite a few ways to kill a bill. One is to burden it down so it sinks under its own weight. One is to just come right out and vote against it in the first place. I mentioned early this morning or yesterday, whenever it was, that there was no opposition to Senator Coordsen's original amendment that

increased unemployment compensation more than was supposedly agreed to at some time or another. And that's really strange, that's really strange, absolutely no opposition. And what was the idea behind that? Who knows. One consideration was that they knew what was coming, opponents knew what was coming. We have completely turned this bill inside out from a simple, just unemployment increase to something that throws into the Department of Labor's laws stuff about drug testing, and federal law, state law, and just complete...as I say, completely turned the bill inside out. I hope the bill will reappear again, and I hope we can make one simple change later to some of Senator Hefner's language and then move the bill as unemployment increase that won't go into effect until '91, and further restrictions, further disqualification rules for people that will go into effect this summer. It's completely...we've completely lost the thrust of this bill. We've completely lost the idea of this bill when we finally make a move, when we finally make a move in favor of the working men and women in this state we prostitute it by doing what we have done today. And when we give them something it's just like dealing on a contract. Sure, we'll give you this \$10, this measly \$10 increase, but to give you that we're going to insist that you give us very onerous concessions. We'll give you ten, but you've got to give us a vehicle that will allow us to disqualify many, many more employees, make it much easier for us to discriminately disqualify employees across the state, then we'll give you your meager \$10. It's typical of dealing in a labor-management relationship. And it shouldn't come down to us versus them, but that's where it always comes from, and this is a perfect example. We had a good bill, a simple bill and we turned it into a monster. And now I have to decide whether I can vote for the ten, the meager ten increase with all this excess baggage hung on the side, or whether we should just wait and come back next year and see if we can't get this straight, that once in a while, once in a while the working men and women should win. They can't lose all the time. They can't give it all the time. They can't give concessions, major concessions for minor increases in what is rightly theirs. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Coordsen, back to you, sir.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The...to pickup where I left off, the figure of...an estimate on the part of the Department of Labor of 100 was their estimate as those that might be totally disqualified under LB 1173, which would be basically addressed as possession

plan or whether the employee has other resources to pay for a drug treatment plan. Now, I just think if we put this thing in place without the Wesely amendment we're not going to be encouraging the kind of activity by employers and employees working together to rid the workplace of drugs. My experience of 15 years of practicing law and dealing with several of these cases indicates to me that we really might as well not pass the darn thing without the Wesely amendment because we're going to be, as I say, keeping, in effect, an inequitable treatment system. So with that, I would urge the advancement of the Wesely amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Langford, please.

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. Speaker, I call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Langford moves the previous question. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Shall debate cease? Have you all voted? Please record.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 11 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate does not cease. Senator Hefner, followed by Senators Chambers, Morrissey and Coordsen.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I realize we have a problem in the workplace and we need to address it and this is why I introduced LB 1173 and it was amended into this bill. I felt that this was the right way to go, and to some of you other folks, you're doing the same thing. You're amending other bills into a bill that is a priority bill and it looks like it should be passed. Yes, there is a difference in my amendment and Senator Wesely's amendment. I think Senator Wesely's amendment needs some study and I'm willing to do that as a member of the Business and Labor Committee. Senator Morrissey said this is a sickness, we should allow unemployment compensation benefits for it. Senator Morrissey, I'd like to ask you a question if you'll yield.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, sir.

SENATOR HEFNER: How many sicknesses do we allow employees to collect unemployment compensation on? Do we allow it on pneumonia?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair is pleased to note that we have additional Girl Scouts in our south balcony, 51 Girl Scouts from the western part of the state, from Lexington, Sidney, Chadron, Rushville, North Platte, Stapleton and other points west. Would you people please stand and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you, we're glad that you could take the time to visit with us. The Chair recognizes Senator Bernard-Stevens for further discussion.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'm not going to add too much to what Senator Hall and Senator Lynch said. But I would hope that, if Senator Coordsen does not withdraw the bracket motion, which I don't know if he's going to do or not, I suspect he's going to want it to go to a vote, that we'd vote it down, I guess I'd say temporarily. And I'd like to give the body at least one chance to do something on the workmen's compensation on LB 315, because obviously it got bogged down. One of the things that bogged it down was priority bill that I had, LB 1062. And I'd like to remind the body that I was not the one that put...that moved to put 1062 on this bill, but I got kind of stuck in that mode and there it was. What I will do is my amendment is first, and I just had a small, technical amendment. I'll ask the body's indulgence and I'll substitute Senator Lynch's amendment which would strike, in a sense...in essence, all of the amendments that were put on 315, with the exception of the original 315 with the committee amendments. In essence, LB 1173, which was added on by Senator Hefner, and all the amendments thereto, and LB 1062, which is Senator Lynch's and my priority bill, would be then deleted. And we give the body one chance, if they wanted to take it, one chance of at least passing something for workmen's compensation, which I think the body, on a straight up vote, would want to do. I would be quick to add, however, that I agree with Speaker Barrett, that we cannot take a lot of time, because we have so many other priority bills that may not be gotten to, of course, some of them I'd rather we not ever get to. But, nonetheless, if that be the case, if we would agree to the Lynch amendment, but more amendments would be filed and more amendments would be filed at that point, I'd be the first one, myself, to bracket...to put a motion to bracket until April 9th. So I don't want to spend a lot of time on the bill. I think we need to bracket it, if in fact we're not going to take it...seriously move it seriously on its way. But I do want to give the body a brief chance, one chance I guess, to get 315 in its original form with the committee amendments so that we might be able to

do something at least on workmen's comp before everything slips through our fingers and we end up doing nothing. And, with that, I give up the rest of my time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise reluctantly to honor the request of my colleague to say that although I'm very serious about this bracket motion I would withdraw it at this time and refile after the Bernard-Stevens amendment, should that become necessary.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. It is withdrawn.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is from Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Mr. President, I'd like to ask the indulgence of the body and substitute for my amendment the Lynch amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: If there are no objections, so ordered.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, members of the body. The Lynch amendment that we now have, actually I guess it's the Bernard-Stevens amendment, but it is the Lynch amendment that was filed. And the Lynch amendment, basically, strikes AM2508 and all amendments to AM2508, and AM2996 and all amendments thereto. In other words, when Senator Hefner offered LB 1173, there were amendments offered to that as well, that would be stricken. Senator Hall offered an amendment which was the Lynch bill, that was my priority bill, LB 1062, and there were amendments offered thereto on federal preemption and other things. Those...that part would be stricken as well. And, in essence, what we would have then is a clean 315 with the committee amendments that were adopted to 315. We would then have a shot at advancing 315, hopefully, by voice vote, even on Select File, and we can go very, very quickly on that. I wanted to give the body a chance to do that, otherwise we'd get absolutely nothing on workmen's compensation. I understand both of the...all of the amendments that were on the bill were worthy goals and worthy ideals. But they are certainly something that