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LB 161, 1136-1171, 1181-1194

Mr. President, finally, I have a reference report referring LBs 1136-1171. (See pages 373-74 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, announcement, the Speaker would like to hold a chairmen's meeting tomorrow morning at eight-fifteen in Room 2102. The Speaker is calling a chairmen's meeting tomorrow morning at eight-fifteen in Room 2102. That is all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do we have some new bills, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills: (Read LBs 1181-1194 by title for the first time. See pages 374-77 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: We'll move on to General File, LB 161, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 161 was a bill that was originally introduced by Senators Rod Johnson, Scofield, Coordsen, Baack, Weihing, Schellpeper and Elmer. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 5 of last year, Mr. President. It was referred to the Agriculture Committee for public hearing. The bill was brought to the floor with committee amendments attached. It was considered on April 5, Mr. President. At that time Senator Johnson made a motion to bracket the bill until January 1 of this year. I have pending the committee amendments. They have not been adopted yet, Senator.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, the committee amendments are relatively straightforward. It is simple but I would like to share them with you and indicate that hopefully they are noncontroversial. There are four parts to the committee amendment. The first requires the Department of Agriculture to use other agencies when enforcement is necessary in the question of water quality. The Department of Agriculture is the lead agency in implementing this bill, but in many cases we have expertise, especially with water quality and other areas including the Department of Environmental Control, through their work; the Department of Health for the Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Resources Office and there is just a variety of different agencies that I think the department could turn to for assistance and I think the important thing is to make sure that

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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

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LB 87, 159, 163, 163A, 220, 240, 257
313, 315, 397, 399, 486, 488, 488A
756, 856, 911, 963, 1002, 1026, 1033
1037, 1050, 1051, 1090, 1108, 1109, 1141
1168, 1181, 1190
LR 239, 240

PRESIDENT: Okay. Thank you. Senator Ashford, you are next, but may I introduce some guests under the south balcony, please. We have from District 22, which is Senator Robak's district, Dianne Foltz of Platte Center and Betty Grant of Columbus, Nebraska. With them are three AFS students, Jean/David Miquel of Paris, France, and Patty Cervantes from Bolivia, and Shane Walker from Australia. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Mr. Clerk, you have something for the record?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President, very quickly. Enrollment and Review reports LB 163 to Select File, LB 163A to Select File, those signed by Senator Lindsay as Chair. Agriculture Committee, whose Chair is Senator Rod Johnson, reports LB 856 to General File. (See page 429 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Coordsen, as Chair of the Business and Labor Committee, has selected LB 313 and LB 315 as the committee priority bills for the year. And Enrollment and Review reports LB 87, LB 220, LB 240, LB 257, LB 397, LB 399, LB 486, LB 488, LB 488A, LB 756 all correctly engrossed. Those signed by Senator Lindsay as Chair. (See pages 430-33 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, notice of hearings from the Education Committee and from the Natural Resources Committee, signed by the respective chairs. (Re: LB 1190, LB 1181, LB 1168, LB 911, LB 1050, LB 1090, LB 1033, LB 1037, LB 963, LB 1026, LB 1108, LB 1109, LB 1141, LB 1002, LB 1051, LR 239 and LR 240.) And Senator Haberman has amendments to be printed to LB 163. That's all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 433-34 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford, did you wish to speak on the first set of Kristensen amendments?

SENATOR ASHFORD: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: Oh, you call the question. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor...Do I see five hands, first? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. What do you think, Senator Ashford? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

February 7, 1990

LB 542, 1168, 1181, 1190
LR 233

Natural Resources reports LB 1168 as indefinitely postponed, LB 1181 indefinitely postponed, LB 1190 indefinitely postponed, those signed by Senator Schmit as Chair.

And Government Committee reports LR 233 to General File with committee amendments attached. That is signed by Senator Baack. (See page 699 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, sir. Proceeding then to item six on the agenda, General File, LB 542, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, 542 was a bill introduced by Senators Lindsay, Ashford and Landis. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 18 of last year, Mr. President. At that time it was referred to the Banking Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes the Chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this measure, 542, was brought to us by Senator Lindsay and relates to the insurance practices basically at the Med Center in Omaha. And the reason this issue comes to us because we have a cap on the liability for medical malpractice losses. That cap is available to people who participate in the medical malpractice insurance mechanism and the Med School participates in that, so that their hospital and their personnel are covered by those caps. To participate in that program, however, you have to be able to provide, if you are in the situation of the Med School, clear evidence of a million dollars of insurance coverage of your own. Once you can show the million dollars of coverage, you can then participate in the program and then these caps on liability apply to you. Well needless to say, everybody wants the caps to apply to them and the Med Center has gone out searching for that million dollars of insurance. What they found is, that the insurance costs for getting that million dollars coverage was really quite exorbitant, far beyond the actual losses that they were experiencing to the tune of 300 to \$500,000 a year greater than the losses that they were accumulating. Instead, what the university would like to do is to create a risk-loss trust. Now