

January 9, 1989

LB 58, 84, 98, 102, 140, 141, 241-266

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read titles for the first time to LBs 241-266. See pages 112-18 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items, the Rules Committee would like to announce that Senator Carson Rogers has been selected as Vice-Chair of the committee.

Mr. President, Revenue Committee will be or are...is conducting a meeting underneath the south balcony.

Mr. President, the Judiciary Committee will conduct an Executive Session upon recess on the south side of the Chamber; Judiciary upon recess. And Transportation will meet in the lounge upon recess...or, Senator...I'm sorry, Senator Lamb, do you want that this afternoon, Senator? I'm sorry, Transportation upon adjournment this afternoon in the Senators' Lounge; Transportation this afternoon.

Mr. President, Government Committee has selected Senator Bernard-Stevens as Vice-Chair.

Mr. President, Senator Conway would like to add his name to LB 140 as co-introducer; Senator Beck to LB 102 and to LB 141; Senators Smith and Hartnett to LB 58; Senator Hartnett to LB 98; Senator Rod Johnson to LB 84.

Mr. President, the last note is a Reference Committee meeting at two-thirty this afternoon in Room 2102; Reference Committee at two-thirty in Room 2102. That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT: Senator Emil Beyer, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege. I hope that the senators have noticed that we have a familiar face back in the Legislature and that's our Page Supervisor, Kitty Kearns. We're glad to have her back and we've missed her and we wish her good health from now on. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please listen as your Speaker speaks.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, just a reminder to committee chairs, committee clerks, if you plan to have a hearing next week, I believe the first day would be the

with Jerry Chizek, the homestead exemption is too low; ought to be higher. And, frankly, I've got to agree with Senator Lamb that, in fact, property taxes operate very harshly against our farms. They do. This is an industry that does not control its own pricing, we know is an economic downturn, different from all of the rest of the economy. They do not share in the rise of the economy. They only rise with the federal budget. The farm economy does well when the federal government allows it to do well but not according to the pricing or market mechanisms that govern the rest of the economy. And, frankly, we have done some things that have made that situation more difficult for farmers. We gulped down bitter medicine last year in LB 361 and that has implications for farmers. Frankly, as we move LB 249 across the board, there will, over time, perhaps be more difficult tax burdens for farmers in LB 249. We have done that in a couple of different places. I would not want to throw out that key to agreement that we found last year which is that you can't do property tax relief for one and only one sector of Nebraska at a time. This is not an area in which we can have winners and losers. This is an area in which we must have winners and winners. And, in that sense, we made progress on property tax relief last year because, after butting our heads against each other for years, we agreed to hold hands and move forward by making sure that the pot was divided with some equity. I can sure understand why Jerry would want to come to the well right now and say, it's too little, let's improve ourselves, let's do more, and I agree with that notion. But let us not throw away the key to action in this area. And, frankly, Senator Wesely raised a good point. Our initiative last year failed to bring real property tax relief because of the unexpected rise in local spending. I agree with Senator Wesely on that point. On the other hand, there is nothing in 747 that ensures that that will happen across the state again, and, in fact, there won't be additional increases in local spending. In other words, the failure that Senator Wesely identified, which I think is absolutely accurate, and laid at our feet from last year's LB 84, remains at our feet no matter what we do with 747. The key to that failure and solving that problem doesn't lie in this bill, it lies elsewhere in the lid proposals contained in other measures. If I had to choose for myself a course of action today, it would be this, it would be to send 747 to E & R and to bracket 747 on E & R for a period of time certain, sufficient to have the public hearing and the committee disposal of the issue of a more across-the-board kind of real property tax relief and let the issues be joined at that point. Yes, I suppose a

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LB 81, 239, 249, 299, 662, 832, 850
864, 871, 894, 915, 1034, 1047, 1059
1061, 1074, 1146, 1199
LR 8

CLERK: (Read record vote. See pages 573-74 of the Legislative Journal.) 9 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment fails. Anything for the record, Mr. Clerk? The call is raised.

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, Senator Scofield has amendments to LB 662 to be printed, Senator Korshoj to LB 81. See pages 574-75 of the Legislative Journal.

Banking Committee whose Chair is Senator Landis reports LB 1146 to General File, LB 1199 General File, LB 1061 General File with amendments, those signed by Senator Landis. (See pages 576-79 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, your Committees on Education and Revenue to whom was referred LB 1059 reports the same back to General File with committee amendments attached, signed by Senators Hall and Dierks as vice chair of the committee. (See pages 597-81 of the Legislative Journal.)

Revenue Committee reports LB 239 indefinitely postponed, LB 249, LB 299, LB 832, LB 850, LB 894, LB 1034, those are reported indefinitely postponed, all signed by Senator Hall. (See page 581 of the Legislative Journal.)

Health and Human Services offers a corrected committee report to LB 871. General Affairs Committee reports LB 1074 to General File and LB 864 indefinitely postponed. And Health and Human Services reports LB 1047 to General File. (See page 581 of the Legislative Journal.)

Last item I have, Mr. President is a request by Senator Nelson to add her name to LB 915 as co-introducer. (See page 582 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: No objections? So ordered.

CLERK: That's all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Emil Beyer, would you please adjourn us until tomorrow at nine o'clock.