

presence today here today with us reminds us of the awesome responsibilities that we share. They are the reasons that we must choose carefully. They deserve the very best that we can give them--the best education, the best career opportunities, the best environment in which to grow and mature. So as you undertake the responsibilities of this session, may the faces of these young people be your reminder of the job that we all have to do and do reflect on how your actions will affect not only the parents and grandparents of these young people, but the future of all of Nebraska's children. You have my every good wish for a successful session, and my gratitude as well and the gratitude of our fellow Nebraskans who are so grateful for your willingness to serve. Thank you and may the God Almighty bless each and every one of you in your deliberations. Thank you. (applause.)

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Governor Orr, thank you for bringing us your State of the State Address and welcome to Bill, Suzanne and most of all, Taylor. We appreciate your coming at this time to give us your address. Will the committee please escort you from the Chamber at this time. (Gavel.) What do you have left, Pat? I understand we have more bills to introduce, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 301-312 by title for the first time. See pages 152-55 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items I have a series of announcements. Senator Lamb announces that Senator Emil Beyer has been selected as Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee.

Mr. President, I have notice of hearing from the Urban Affairs Committee, signed by Senator Hartnett; and from the Education Committee, signed by Senator Withem. And, Mr. President, I believe that is all that I have.

Mr. President, I have a Report of Registered Lobbyists for the...up through January 9, which is required to be filed pursuant to statute.

PRESIDENT: We have a few more bills to introduce. We'll be at ease for just a few moments.

EASE

CLERK: The Executive Board will meet now in Room 2102;

April 21, 1989

LB 301-303, 303A, 305, 308, 309, 309A, 310
469, 508, 509, 605, 627, 669, 722
727, 793

May I introduce some guests please in the north balcony. Senator Hannibal has 75 eighth grade students from St. Roberts School in Omaha with their teachers. Would you ladies and gentlemen please stand and be recognized by the Legislature. Thank you for visiting us this morning. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LB 793, LB 508, LB 509, LB 605, LB 627, LB 669, and LB 722. We will move on to introduction of appropriation bills, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, before, if I may, read some reports. Your Committee on Appropriations whose Chair is Senator Warner to whom was referred LB 301 instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation it be advanced to General File with amendments, as are LB 302, LB 303, LB 303A, LB 305, LB 308, LB 309, LB 309A, LB 310, LB 469, and LB 727, all reported to General File, all having committee amendments, all signed by Senator Warner as Chair. (See pages 1831-39 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Warner would move for the introduction of Committee Req. 1249.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Req. 1249 would be the mainline budget bill. It would include everything other than...well, obviously, the bills, the constitutional officers are separate, legislative salaries are separate, salaries are separate, health insurance is separate, but this would include the other recommended appropriations for state agencies and state aid programs. I would move the suspension of the rule to permit its introduction.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? If not, the question is the introduction of the appropriation bill as described by Senator Warner. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the introduction of Req. 1249.

PRESIDENT: The bill is introduced. Do you have another one, Mr. Clerk?

may. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 302.

PRESIDENT: LB 302 is advanced. Senator Wehrbein would like to have a moment to speak to you about his drinking habits. Senator Wehrbein, please. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I just want to take a point of personal privilege to acknowledge the apple cider from the Nebraska City orchards, three orchards there, presented on behalf of the Arbor Day ceremonies coming up this weekend. If you recall, we changed the Arbor Day celebration last year in this body to be the last Friday of April and that's coming up this weekend and I just wanted to acknowledge that and thank them for furnishing the apple cider.

PRESIDENT: Very good. Thank you very much, appreciate it. LB 303.

CLERK: Mr. President, 303 was a bill introduced by Speaker Barrett at the request of the Governor. (Title read.) The bill was...

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there are no amendments to the bill. The bill reflects the appropriation by agency and reflecting the type of coverage that each employee may individually have within agencies for the coverage of health insurance. You will recall that the...both under the bargaining agreements and, in fact, in practice, the employees pay 20 percent of the cost of health insurance and the state pays 80 percent with...may vary where you have higher coverages totally, something less if you have higher coverage, which you individually pay. What I should also indicate though, as you have read in the paper, there has been some questions raised on the insurance coverage and as the committee is still reviewing that, as I believe the administration is, we have under consideration at the moment but have not officially done it yet, but to possibly hire a consultant to review some of these issues to see whether or not any other adjustment which has been suggested should or can appropriately be made but we do not have a recommendation as to that point yet. But the bill as

April 26, 1989

LB 303A, 303

it is drafted here is a straight coverage as provided either by the contracts or by state policy, state statutes, as to what portion of the premium should be covered through an appropriation and then the balance from the employees. As I recall the percentage increase, premiums for the first year was 36 percent and the second year I believe is 18 percent increase. I'd move the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the discussion. The question is the advancement of LB 303. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 303.

PRESIDENT: LB 303 is advanced. LB 303A.

CLERK: Mr. President, 303A was introduced by the Speaker at the request of the Governor. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 17, referred to Appropriations. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Appropriations Committee, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, this committee amendment only adds the state colleges' health insurance which was not included in the original Governor's bill and in the amount of 785,000 for one year and 223,000 the next year, and this just puts all health insurance coverage for all agencies in the same bill. I'd move adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the explanation. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments on LB 303A. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, on the advancement of the bill.

get taken care of. It is similar to your problem but it deals with mental illness versus the alcohol problem, but they are both the same issue, in essence. You don't take a drunk in a jail. That doesn't help them. You don't take a person with a mental illness problem into jail. That doesn't help them. You need to find a place to care for them. So they are both similar in that the jail isn't the place to go. The systems are different although they do link up under our service system in regions. They are similar, but they are the same problem, same attempt to deal with them, just a kind of different focus on actually the services delivered, and that money they are talking about deals with the other side of it, but you are right. It is close but not quite the same. In addition, for Senator Warner, I missed the discussion on LB 303, or whatever the bill was, on health insurance, and could you again outline, Senator Warner, where we are at? What the timetable, the \$2.5 million problem, and what is happening on all that? I missed it and I just...I think...I don't know if it is addressed in this bill, so I am kind of confused on it. So if you could, just where we are at on that?

SENATOR WARNER: All right, thanks, Senator Wesely. The committee's...I, as you all know, this issue didn't really become apparent to us until the last few days or the last two or three weeks, so, in any event, there have been conversations with the administration and I think, by and large, have been covered in the press. What the committee has been doing, we have had some meetings with Blue Cross-Blue Shield representatives. They presented their findings. Currently, we have under discussion, we should know back Thursday, tomorrow, of the possibility of an actuary involved in health insurance that might review those statistics and see if they would come up with a similar...not that we are challenging Blue Cross-Blue Shield's but the concept of having an independent review of whether or not those projections seem to be reasonable, and I suppose the question then is still open whether or not any other additional funding is appropriate or not. Obviously, there is a contract, a signed contract. The condition on it that makes a little bit of difference is apparently the contract historically has had a cancellation, two options for cancellations, as a matter of fact. One, either side with, as I recall, a 90 day notice can cancel, and the second option is that if there is a drop of over 10 percent of the people covered by moving essentially to HMOs, that, too, is a cause to consider a cancellation of the contract. They are both optional. I think

April 27, 1989

LB 303, 303A, 340A, 514, 813
LR 88-91

vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment to the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The amendment to the amendment is adopted. Would you like to put some things into the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, very quickly if I may, thank you. Senator Chambers has amendments to be printed to LB 340A. (See page 1968 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 303 to Select File and LB 303A to Select File, signed by Senator Lindsay as Enrollment and Review Chair. (See page 1968 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, LR 88 is offered by Senator Schimek. (Read brief explanation.) LR 89 by Senators Hartnett and Schmit. (Read brief explanation.) LR 90 is an interim study resolution by Senators Hartnett and Withem. (Read brief explanation.) LR 91 by Senators Hartnett and Hall. (Read brief explanation. See pages 1969-72 of the Legislative Journal.) Those will all be referred to Reference, Mr. President.

I have a letter from Senator Labedz as Chair of the Board referring a communication the Legislature received regarding a bond issued by the University of Nebraska. That will be referred to the Appropriations Committee for public hearing.

Education Committee reports LB 514 to General File with committee amendments attached. That is signed by Senator Withem. (See page 1968 of the Legislative Journal.)

And the last item, Mr. President, a notice of confirmation hearing by the Government Committee. That is signed by Senator Baack as Chair of the committee.

Mr. President, we're now back to Senator Schmit's amendment as amended, found on page 1914.

PRESIDENT: Okay, may I introduce some guests, please, before we start on that, please. Senator Dennis Byars has 28 fourth graders with two teachers in the north balcony from Southern Elementary in Blue Springs, Nebraska. Would you please stand

May 3, 1989

LB 303, 639, 640, 767, 813, 814
LR 105, 106

Senator McFarland. We're voting on the adoption of the Chambers amendment. Call in votes were authorized. Senator Labedz, would you check in please. Senator Warner, record your presence, please. Thank you.

CLERK: Senator Hefner voting no.

PRESIDENT: We're looking for Senator Nelson and Senator Ashford.

CLERK: Senator Lowell Johnson voting no. Senator Weihing voting yes.

PRESIDENT: Okay, a roll call vote has been requested. Are we all here, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: No, sir.

PRESIDENT: Who are we looking for now?

CLERK: Senator Ashford.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ashford. Is that the only one? Okay. Shall we wait for Senator Ashford, Senator Chambers? All right. Okay, the question is the adoption of the Chambers amendment. A roll call vote has been requested. Please return to your seats so we may begin. (Gavel.) Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Read roll call vote. See pages 2053-54 of the Legislative Journal.) 22 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President.

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

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I do. Mr. President, a resolution by Senator Baack. (Read brief explanations of LR 105 and LR 106. See pages 2054-55 of the Legislative Journal.)

Senator Baack has amendments to LB 639, to LB 640; Senator Schmit to LB 814; Senator Baack to LB 303; Senator Hefner to LB 767. (See pages 2055-64 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Landis would like to have an Executive Session of the Banking Committee today at two o'clock in the Senate Lounge, Banking Committee in the Senate Lounge at two

May 8, 1989

LB 303, 588, 727, 761, 814
LR 132, 133, 150, 151-156

letting the more important go, we have to answer those questions anyway, we won't have added to that the question of why we appropriate money for something when no need has been shown. So Senator Moore's amendment I think is right on the money, and I do support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH:.. Mr. President and members, I move we adjourn until May 9th at eight o'clock in the morning.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any messages on the President's desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. I have amendments to be printed to LB 588 from Senator Hall; Senator Landis to LB 727; Senator Warner to LB 303. (See pages 2177-78 of the Legislative Journal.)

Study resolutions, from Senator Smith, LR 150; Senator Wesely offers LR 151, LB 152, LR 153, LR 154, and LR 155; and a study resolution from Senator Schellpeper, Byars, Goodrich, Dierks, Crosby, Lynch and Wesely, (LR 156). (See pages 2170-75 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a series of amendments to LB 761 by Senator Morrissey, and that is all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 2178-79 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, I am sorry, excuse me, Senator Smith would like to add her name to LR 132 and LB 133 as co-introducer. That is all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is, shall we adjourn until tomorrow morning at eight o'clock? A machine vote has been requested. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the motion to adjourn. Please vote if you would care to vote. Have you all voted? Record. Senator Chambers. A call of the house has been requested. Shall the house go under call? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 3 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The house is under call. Members, please check in. Return to your desks. Those members outside the Chamber, please return and record your presence. Senator

May 9, 1989

LB 301-303, 813
LR 212

LB 301.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall LB 301 be advanced? Those in favor say aye. Opposed no. Carried. The bill is advanced. And finally LB 302.

CLERK: LB 302, Senator, I have no amendments to the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 302.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall LB 302 be advanced? All in favor say aye. Opposed no. Carried. The bill is advanced. Any messages on the President's desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Enrollment and Review reports LB 813 to Select File, signed by Senator Lindsay.

Mr. President, a study resolution, LR 212 by Senator Wesely, and, Mr. President, amendments to be printed to LB 303 by Senator Moore. I believe that is all that I have, Mr. President. (See pages 2252-57 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question before the body then is the motion to adjourn until tomorrow morning at eight o'clock. Those in favor say aye. Opposed no. The ayes have it. Motion carried.

Proofed by:

LaVera Benischek
LaVera Benischek

May 10, 1989

LB 303. 544

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the confirmation report.

PRESIDENT: The confirmation report is adopted. Move on to LB 303.

CLERK: Mr. President, 303 is on Select File. First order of business on the bill, I have no E & R, Mr. President. I do have amendments, however. Senator Baack would move to amend the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. President and colleagues, my amendment is printed on page 2060 of the Journal, and what this amendment is is that it will take the provisions of LB 544 which was a bill introduced by the Government Committee and then heard by the Banking Committee, and the bill was then reported out by the Banking Committee unanimously. There was a committee amendment striking some of the language that was originally contained in 544. My amendment also does not contain that language so we concur totally with the Banking Committee's action on this bill. What it does is it transfers the responsibility for the governance of the health insurance program for the state employees. It transfers that authority from the risk manager to the Department of Personnel, and that is all that the amendment does. And I don't think it should be controversial. It is something that is being done now, but they just need the authority to continue to do that. With that, I would urge the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Baack, are you...you're amending LB 544 into this bill?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, that's correct, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: I'm trying to remember. I don't see Senator Landis here, but if I'm not mistaken...I know...the concern I had, if...I'm sorry, I didn't recall this amendment coming up and you do include the committee amendments?

SENATOR BAACK: (Mike not activated immediately.) ...Yes,

(inaudible)...as the...

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, just a moment, you weren't on. Would you repeat what you said, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Senator Wesely. My amendment deletes the same language that the committee deleted in their committee amendment, but that language is not in there.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, thank you. Let me...I would support the amendment then, and let me tell you a little of the background of why we should agree to the committee amendment. The language that would have been added that Senator Baack is deleting along with the Banking Committee raises an issue that has come up before and I just want to alert this Legislature to it. If you recall, we had struggled and struggled with the idea of employees who retire being able to be on the state employee group health insurance program. We've had legislation to provide for that over the years and it has been consistently rejected by this Legislature. But what happened was, and, Senator Schmit, you'll recall this discussion in the committee, but what happened was we went to this new plan of how we negotiate benefits and there was a negotiation that occurred and the negotiation gave to the employees the very benefit that this Legislature had rejected over the years and this amendment then that we deleted from this bill, I appreciate Senator Baack deleting from his amendment, would have extended beyond what was negotiated on to other employees and probably, I've got to say that eventually we may have to do that just to be fair, but I think it would be better to bring that bill up and discuss it at that time and I think really talk about this negotiation system that we have place that in one year we can reject a benefit as a Legislature and the next year, administratively, provide the benefit and I don't want to get in that big discussion right now because it is not part of this amendment but I want to alert you that this did happen. The Banking Committee caught it and thought we ought to talk about that and how that happens, so I would support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR BAACK: No, just urge the body to advance, to adopt the amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the Baack amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Baack's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Baack amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely would move to amend. Senator, your amendment is on page 2178 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this amendment to the bill changes as the bill was drafted the amount of contribution of state funds to each of the different kinds of coverage that an individual might have, depending on whether it is a single family coverage or what is referred to as two plus four. The bill shows \$68, for example, premium for the...or cost for the...let me back up. For a single coverage the bill indicates \$68 and the A bill is all calculated on this at \$72 which is, and 15 cents, which is the contract price. Now the difference is that three or four years ago there was established a Premium Stabilization Fund and that Premium Stabilization Fund at the time that it was established was some money that was, because of the way the contracts came out, was set aside to use for future adjustments that might be necessary in the health insurance and it has been utilized a couple times to give some stability to the state cost. But this amendment then reflects, as I indicated, the actual contract price for each of the different kinds of coverage. It is the way in which the A bill is drafted. Doesn't change any of the numbers and it will allow that million to million, two that is in that Premium Stabilization Fund to remain there because obviously we're going to have some major changes in the health insurance issue in the next couple of years and it seemed more prudent not to use up that Stabilization Fund money at this point. So I would move adoption of the amendment so that the coverage reflects the actual contract price as it exists rather than the numbers that are in there which are slightly lower, but will not change the

A bill. The A bill is calculated on this basis. I'd move its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please, followed by Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely. Did you wish to close, Senator Warner? Okay, the question is the adoption of the Warner amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Warner's amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Warner amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to amend the bill. (The Moore amendment appears on page 2257 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, if you look at page 2257 of the Journal, you will see this amendment, it's printed. And, quite simply, what this amendment is, this is an amendment that's a "catch a mother napping amendment" and I am going to withdraw it but I'm going to use it to speak on the issue. What this amendment is it relates to LB 105, a bill that I have introduced for a couple of years now dealing with certain items that a certain insurance company in the state, Blue Cross-Blue Shield, refuses to cover. There was legislation passed in the seventies or sixties by then Senator Harold Simpson that required insurance companies to cover all forms of ailments. For a variety of methods, Blue Cross-Blue Shield has used different definitions to, at least in my own opinion, at least, to circumvent the intent of the law and not cover chiropractic payments. I have had trouble with this bill. I have introduced it twice and I've never been able to get it out of committee for a variety of reasons. If I was...had less scruples than some people, I guess I'd just say this is a "trust me" amendment and try and adopt it this morning, but for my own credibility's sake I will not do that. And...but I will allow, I think, some...a couple of people wanted to say a few things, I will allow a couple of people to say a few things before I withdraw it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I appreciate that Senator Moore is going to withdraw this amendment. I think I would have concerns about it and we have discussed this in the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Company and I think we killed the bill essentially that Senator Moore is offering here. We are going to take a look at it, I guess, in that committee, study it further. But the implications are cost based that you have to have some restrictions on who all is going to be involved in reimbursement and once you broaden it and include more people, in fact, you will spread costs and increase costs and so to maintain some cost controls you have to be selective on who your insurance covers and reimburses. And so I think I'm glad he's not going to pursue it and I would suggest that we all, you know, carefully look at this issue and I guess it will be back before us next year, but I would not in any way want to see this adopted this session.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Schmit.

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, Mr. President, I just...I would...I don't know but I would suspect in reading the amendment that it probably would have something in the statute that would be different than what the contracts are that are signed. I think Senator Moore maybe indicated that and, obviously, that would be an impairment of contract which we probably wouldn't want to pass.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I concur with what Senator Wesely and Senator Warner have said, but I would have to, in defense of Senator Moore, point out that I know from experience how difficult it is sometime to get a bill out of committee. And I will be very honest with you because I do serve as a board member of Blue Cross-Blue Shield and I receive a \$5,000 a year salary for that and Blue Cross is very adamant about this bill. And I guess if you want to give some of my colleagues and Mr. John Humpal severe palpitations of the heart, Senator Moore, we probably could have advanced this...attached this amendment and there would have been repercussions all up and down the line. But I...I do want to say this, that Senator Moore understands the issue, he understands, as Senator Warner has said, the impairment of contracts. He also understands that

there is a group of people out there who feel very strongly about this issue and who are probably going to...could easily come back to this Legislature and I believe...is Senator Landis here...no, sorry, Senator Landis is not here, there is a proposed interim study on this issue because it is of broad general interest. And, to be specific, we know, for example, that under group plans it is possible with the Blue Cross to provide coverage for services of the chiropractic physicians but on an individual plan it is not possible to purchase that and those individuals who are under the individual plan feel that they are not being provided that opportunity. And so it's something that needs to be discussed and needs to be addressed and I would have to say that once again Senator Moore has demonstrated his alacrity and his ability to liven up an otherwise kind of a dull morning. And had he not been so truthful, he probably could have attached the amendment. At this time, Senator, I'm going to have to oppose the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, just for a...what I mentioned, just like I said, this issue, it's been an issue that's been virtually impossible to get it out of the Banking Committee. Thanks to the help of Senator Landis, it's my hope, at least, the Banking Committee is going to take an in depth review of this whole issue. You know, I have yet to be corrected but I have said for two years now out of the 49 states, Blue Cross-Shield has paid for this type of service in every state but Nebraska and if I am wrong on that, I have yet to be proven wrong. But it's my hope that the Banking Committee will indeed take a serious look at this whole situation and, like I said, I find it...it seems like...I don't know if the Blue Cross-Blue Shield has arrived and I don't know whether interest in Blue Cross-Blue Shield has arrived but if you're listening, I guess I will save you heart failure and withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT: It is withdrawn. Anything further, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay, we're back on the advancement of the bill. Senator Schmit, did you wish to speak on the advancement? Senator Wesely, on the advancement?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President and members, just an alert, again, to the members of the Legislature. The health cost problem is increasing. It is a great concern to me. It should be a great concern to you. LB 303 calls for \$8,400,000 additional dollars next fiscal year, \$14,500,000 the following year and that doesn't even include the additional \$5 million in dispute now between Blue Cross-Blue Shield and the state which is now under actuarial study. This is serious, this is serious. We're talking here about \$23 million more dollars, maybe \$28 million more dollars over the next two years just in health insurance costs. This is reflected not just in state employee health insurance, but any employer in the state is facing the same sort of increases. I know from personal experience over in Lincoln Telephone where I work in personnel, the sort of increase we're facing and I can assure you that there isn't an employer in the state that isn't facing some sort of increase in health costs and in some cases significant increases just as we are suffering from a significant increase. We fight and argue and scrap over \$50,000, in Senator Schmit's case, and millions of dollars in other people's cases and here we're talking about \$23 million. Nothing much we can do about it, but I think at the same time we need to understand that this is \$23 million visibly present but there are millions more out across the state in other employee and employer insurance coverages that are also increasing. My suggestion is that we've got get a handle on this and the one way to get a handle on it is to get more information, more data and start to make some cost control, cost containment initiatives work here in the State of Nebraska. If we don't get a handle on it, it's going to only get worse and I just want this bill to point out once again how serious a problem we have with health costs.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. LB 303A.

CLERK: Mr. President, on 303A I have Enrollment and Review amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hall, would you help us on the Enrollment and Review?

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I would move the E & R amendments be adopted.

May 15, 1989

LB 303, 303A, 525, 812, 816, 816A
LR 160, 211

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Mike not activated immediately.) ...Chamber and to this Monday morning in the last full week of the First Session of the 91st Legislature. Our opening prayer this morning by our own Harland Johnson.

HARLAND JOHNSON: (Prayer offered.)

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, your committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports they have carefully examined and reviewed LB 816 and recommend that same be placed on Select File, LB 816A and LB 525 all on Select File. Enrollment and Review also reports LB 303 and LB 303A as correctly Engrossed, Mr. President, all of those signed by Senator Lindsay as Enrollment and Review Chairperson. (See pages 2319-22 of the Legislative Journal.)

A communication from the Governor to the Clerk. (Read communication regarding LB 812.)

Mr. President, a report from the Department of Roads regarding the statement of deposits to the Highway Cash Fund.

And, Mr. President, LR 160 is ready for your signature, and that is all that I have. (See page 2323 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. And while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 160. Mr. Clerk, to the legislative resolution.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 211 was introduced by Senator Schmit. It is found on page 2249. (Read brief description.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I've introduced

May 18, 1989

LB 277A, 280, 283, 303

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on pages 2510-2511 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 277A passes. LB 280.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB 280 on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all the provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 280 pass? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2511 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 43 ayes, 0 nays, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 280 passes. Senator Wehrbein has some guests in the north balcony. We have 12 students in the fifth grade from Weeping Water, Nebraska, with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. LB 283 please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB 283 on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 283 pass? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2512 of the Legislative Journal.) 47 ayes, 0 nays, 1 present and not voting, 1 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 283 passes. LB 303 with the emergency clause attached.

CLERK: (Read LB 303 on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all the provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 303 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

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LB 303, 303A, 312A, 312

CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2513 of the Legislative Journal.) 47 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 303 passes with the emergency clause attached. May I introduce some guests in the north balcony who are guests of Senator Carson Rogers, we have 25 fifth graders and 10 sixth graders from Burwell Elementary School, also accompanied by three teachers. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. LB 303A with the emergency clause attached.

CLERK: (Read LB 303A on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 303A pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2514 of the Legislative Journal.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 303A passes with the emergency clause attached. LB 312 with the emergency clause attached.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB 312 on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 312 pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. I am reminded we are supposed to be in our seats during Final Reading please. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2515 of the Legislative Journal.) 44 ayes, 0 nays, 3 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 312 passes with the emergency clause attached. May I introduce some guests please of Senator Wehrbein. In the north balcony, we have 12 fifth grade students from Weeping Water. Will you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Mr. Clerk, LB 312A with the

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LB 84, 95, 247, 247A, 250, 250A, 261
261A, 272A, 277, 277A, 290, 283, 303
303A, 312A, 312, 356

emergency clause attached.

CLERK: (Read LB 312A on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT: Having complied with all provisions of law relative to procedure, the question is, shall LB 312A pass with the emergency clause attached? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Read record vote as it appears on page 2516 of the Legislative Journal.) 43 ayes, 0 nays, 4 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: LB 312A passes with the emergency clause attached. May I introduce some guests in the north balcony, Senator Schmit has 30 third and fourth grade students from Dwight and their teachers. They are from the East Butler Elementary School. Will you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. I have an Attorney General's Opinion. (Re: LB 356, found on pages 2516-2520 of the Legislative Journal.)

I also have an explanation of vote, Mr. President, by Senator Warner. (Re: LB 84, found on page 2520 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign, LB 95, LB 247, LB 247A, LB 250, LB 250A, LB 261, LB 261A, LB 277, LB 277A, LB 280, LB 283, LB 303, LB 303A, LB 312 and LB 312A. Are you ready to go on?

CLERK: Yes, I am, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: We will go on to the General File, LB 272A.

CLERK: Mr. President, 272A is a bill introduced by Senator Landis, it's a bill for an act to appropriate funds to implement the provisions of LB 272.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LB 272 is the Mortgage

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LB 95, 247, 247A, 250, 250A, 261, 261A
272A, 277, 277A, 280, 283, 303, 303A
312, 312A
LR 216, 219

SENATOR LANGFORD: Mr. President and colleagues, I move we recess for lunch until one-thirty.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Anything to read in, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Enrollment and Review reports LB 272A to Select File. Bills read on Final Reading have been presented to the Governor, Mr. President. That's all that I have. (Re: LB 95, LB 247, LB 247A, LB 250, LB 250A, LB 261, LB 261A, LB 277, LB 277A, LB 280, LB 283, LB 303, LB 303A, LB 312 and LB 312A. See page 2522 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You've heard the motion to recess until one-thirty. All in favor say aye. Opposed no. Ayes have it, carried, we are recessed.

RECESS

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

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

PRESIDENT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 216. I would like to introduce some guests in the north balcony if I might. We have Carl and Iona Taylor of Lincoln, and Mrs. Taylor is a cousin of my wife. Would you folks please stand so we can welcome you. Treat them kindly and don't tell us about them and don't tell them about us. Thank you for visiting us today, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor. Mr. Clerk, before lunch, we were where?

CLERK: Well, Mr. President, we were, well, let me...may I read one item for the record, Mr. President, before I...

PRESIDENT: Yes, please.

CLERK: Senator, I have a new resolution, Mr. President, LR 219 offered by Senator Abboud. (Read brief explanation. See pages 2523-24 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over.

May 24, 1989 LB 95, 132, 134, 158, 158A, 175, 175A, 182, 182A
183, 183A, 198, 228A, 228, 261, 261A, 280, 283
285, 285A, 302, 303, 303A, 305, 309, 309A, 310
312, 312A, 335, 335A, 340, 340A, 469, 525, 566
588, 651, 651A, 695, 706, 727, 781, 816, 816A

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We have with us on our closing day as our Chaplain, Reverend Harland Johnson. Would you please rise for the invocation.

REVEREND HARLAND JOHNSON: (Prayer offered.)

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

PRESIDENT: Do we have any corrections this morning?

CLERK: Mr. President, one small correction. (Read correction found on page 2719 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Okay, do you have any messages, reports, or announcements today?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do. I have a series of communications from the Governor. First of all, Mr. President, the last few bills read on Final Reading yesterday afternoon have been presented to the Governor as of 2:48 p.m., yesterday. (Re: LB 525, LB 566, LB 588, LB 651, LB 651A, LB 695, LB 706, LB 781. See page 2720 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a series of communications from the Governor. (Read. Re: LB 228A.) A second communication to the Clerk. (Read. Re: LB 134, LB 158, LB 158A, LB 175, LB 175A, LB 182, LB 182A, LB 198.) A third communication. (Read. Re: LB 95, LB 261, LB 261A, LB 280, LB 283, LB 303, LB 303A, LB 312, LB 312A.) A fourth communication, Mr. President, to Mr. President, and Senators. (Read. Re: LB 183, LB 183A.) A fourth, Mr. President, to the Clerk. (Read. Re: LB 132, LB 285, LB 285A, LB 302, LB 305, LB 309, LB 309A, LB 310, LB 335, LB 335A, LB 340, LB 340A, LB 469, LB 727, LB 816, LB 816A.) The last letter I have received, Mr. President, with respect to signing of bills. (Read. Re: LB 228. See pages 2720-22 of the Legislative Journal.)