

January 18, 1989

LB 35, 36, 38, 79, 158, 496-536

while you bring in your bills. If you have some, please bring them up. Do you have an announcement for us?

CLERK: Mr. President, Reference Committee will meet in five minutes in Room 2102; Reference Committee in Room 2102 in five minutes.

PRESIDENT: Reference Committee, please heed the announcement just made.

EASE

PRESIDENT: If you don't have anything to do, there is some dry edible beans up in front here, if you would like to help yourself you may. John Weihsing knows all about them, so you can ask him if you want to know how to cook them or anything. (Gavel.) Senator Weihsing.

SENATOR WEIHSING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this year Nebraska is number one in the production of dry edible beans. I thought that you should realize that we have a very high standing with the production in the nation.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk, you have something to do.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Agriculture, whose Chair is Senator Rod Johnson, to whom was referred LB 35, instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation it be advanced to General File; LB 36 and LB 38 to General File, all signed by Senator Johnson as Chair.

Mr. President, new bills. (LBs 496-536. Read for the first time by title. See pages 258-66 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items, I have the hearing notice from the Health and Human Service Committee. Mr. President, a Reference Report referring LBs 463 through 495.

Mr. President, Transportation Committee, whose Chair is Senator Lamb, to whom was referred LB 79, instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation that it be advanced to General File with committee amendments attached, and LB 158 to General File, both of those signed by Senator Lamb (See pages 268 of the Legislative Journal.)

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LB 247, 392, 395, 531, 564, 694, 748
760

that's already been made that some of the programs based on need, no doubt, would also be addressed to the needs of native Americans and that the actual dollars distributed would be something in excess of that amount that was specifically designated to go to the tribal areas. In any event, I would move that the report be advanced. Obviously, there's been many suggestions that other areas could be addressed. As I have indicated earlier, I know of no way that all of the needs that could be suggested could be addressed. Half the funds are contemplated to be a revolving fund, in nature they go back to the low income or needs primarily low in the way of loans which would be repaid and so there is, from that viewpoint, at least, the opportunity for reuse of these funds by many people over a period of time, which, incidentally, was a change from a couple of years ago. You may recall, we then were operating under the impression that these funds had to all be used, gone within a specified period of time, but that restriction seems to have been lifted somewhat and the revolving fund concept, which is being used in the one program, in fact, can exist and is being implemented. So I would move that the report be adopted as written. As several have indicated, it does point out broad areas which are consistent with the predisbursement plan that we would hope the Governor's office would take into account in the distribution of these funds' two specific projects.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the Appropriations Committee report. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the motion as offered by Senator Warner.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee report is adopted. For the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Revenue, whose Chairman is Senator Hall, to whom was referred LB 564, instructs me to report the same back to the Legislature with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed. That's signed by Senator Hall.

Education Committee reports LB 247 to General File; LB 392, General File; LB 395, General File; LB 531, indefinitely postponed; LB 694, indefinitely postponed; LB 760, indefinitely

April 4, 1990

LB 247, 531, 1141
LR 239

personally, is isn't it kind of funny how 8 out of the 9 members of the Appropriations Committee voted to advance this thing last time. I think both of those accusations are very unfair, both to Senator Withem and Senator Warner, because they were on...they voted for LB 247 last year, they worked on this all summer, long before things happened at the university. I know Senator Warner, in some of the conversations he spoke last year on the Kearney State issue, itself, talked about the need to do some of these things. He's introduced bills in the past to do some of these things. I think that's another unfair accusation. Now, Senator Withem, on the other hand has been more in my caliber, of beating the university over the head any chance we can, I guess. But I think it's important that the body, once again, go back to some of the things that Senator Warner said in his speech on the bracket motion. And unlike many of the speakers that have spoken from this microphone over the years, those shaped like me and those like Loran Schmit that care to make bold predictions on five years from now, hope you listened to some of the things Senator Warner said, because we're headed down the road for some trouble. And even if LR 239, the worst case, we pass it and, yes, for some reason the voters don't adopt it this time around, we begin the discussion and bring to light some of the things we need to do to improve our higher education in the state, and some of the things we need to do to go to our taxpayers and eventually spend some more money in the right fashion on higher education in this state. And so don't use the copout that, well, the voters are never going to adopt it. Don't use the copout that some people are trying to get even with the university. We've been talking about coordination for a long time. I know I, myself, introduced LB 531, last year, to do basically what Senator Warner's amendment to LB 1141 would do. Now, why do eight members of the Appropriations Committee vote like they do on this? You know, because we sit there and we look how we spend the money, and we just know we're not getting our money's worth right now, and we know there are troubles down the road. With that, I urge the adoption of the resolution. Hopefully, we can work our way towards 30 votes and get it on the ballot.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Question.

PRESIDENT: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do, and the question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor

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LB 531, 1141
LR 239

LR 239 is no good. What you ought to do is work within the present Coordinating Commission and something like that we could live with. That is what they said to me at noon yesterday. This morning I go out and talk to their representative, they say they are opposed to this amendment. Something is going on there. I think Senator Warner is absolutely right. These people don't want anything to happen and Senator Warner, the dean that he is, called their bluff and said, now wait a second, since you said you wanted it, I am going to give it to you. I think we should and I don't think LR 239 has the guns or the muscle to get across on Final Reading with 30 votes. It is as simple as that. But I...that is why I like LB 1141, the Warner amendment at least puts something on the ballot to say, yes, we are going to try and do some coordination in higher education, and with that amendment, we are going to take the exact words given to us by the opponents of LR 239, saying, okay, if you don't like that, okay, you are right, you are absolutely right, we are going to use the present system. Now I am anxious to see how some of the more vocal opponents of LR 239 react to this because what are they going to say, there has not been a public hearing. Well, there was a public hearing on LR 239, and as a result of this, we have this amendment. That is what public hearings are for, to generate ideas. There was a public hearing last year on LB 531, which has a very similar membership to what Senator Warner is talking about. There has been plenty of public hearings on this bill and we all know that. And so I will be anxious to see what sort of cover people run for when their bluff is called and say, wait a second, you are right, we all agree, coordination needs to occur. The Warner amendment recognizes that this body probably is not ready to go whole hog with LR 239, but, hopefully, people will mean what they say when they say LR 239 is too much. We do want coordination. This amendment will use the present system. We give some nice fangs to that little French poodle that is guarding the bank now and do some coordination and then, hopefully, in my mind, we can go forward on making some decisions on how we want to spend money...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...on higher education in this state so we can compete. And why, Senator LaVon Crosby, why? Because the students of this state I don't think presently on down the line are having the quality they always deserve. And it is because of the students that you need to do this in my opinion. We may