

your presence, please. Thank you. Senator Labedz, would you record your presence, please. Senator Robak, record your presence, please. Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Chambers, would you record your presence, please. Thanks. We're looking for Senator Lynch, Senator Owen Elmer, Senator Peterson, Senator Pirsch. Senator Kristensen, record your presence, please. Thank you. Okay, we're looking for Senator Bernard-Stevens is all. Senator McFarland, shall we go ahead with your roll call vote?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: That would be fine.

PRESIDENT: All right. The question is the advancement of the bill. Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 297 of the Legislative Journal.) 21 ayes, 25 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement.

PRESIDENT: LB 180 fails to advance. Mr. Clerk, do you have anything for the record, please?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I do.

PRESIDENT: The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read by title for the first time LBs 600-647. See pages 298-308 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, in addition to those items, I have hearing notice from the Natural Resources Committee, signed by Senator Schmit. Notice of hearing from the Revenue Committee. That is signed by Senator Hall. Notice of hearing from the Government Committee. That's signed by Senator Baack.

Mr. President, that's all that I have at this time.

PRESIDENT: We will progress on to LB 190.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 190 was a bill that was introduced Senator Withem. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 9, referred to Education, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Senator Withem, just a moment, maybe we

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535, 570, 629, 801

indefinitely postponed; LB 375, indefinitely postponed; LB 535, indefinitely postponed; LB 570, LB 629, LB 801, all indefinitely postponed, signed by Senator Hall as Chair of Revenue. (See page 742 of the Legislative Journal.)

New A bills, Mr. President. (Read LB 224A, LB 350A, LB 408A, LB 361A and LB 147A by title for the first time. See page 743 of the Legislative Journal.) That is all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Fine, thank you. We'll move on to LB 416.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 416 was introduced by Senator Robak. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Transportation Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Robak, please.

SENATOR ROBAK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I don't want to make light of this situation, but in my office we refer to this as the K-Mart blue light special. LB 416 permits the use of blue flashing lights in conjunction with red and white flashing lights on emergency vehicles. Current law only now uses...permits the use of red and white lights. However, several Nebraska jurisdictions are already using blue with red and white lights. Studies have shown that at night blue and white lights are more visible than red and white lights. The Columbus police chief surveyed over 30 law enforcement agencies in Nebraska and learned that 20 are currently using blue lights. There is some confusion as to whether or not law enforcement agencies have the authority to use blue lights. For example, a city attorney told a police chief that blue lights were authorized while the county attorney told him that they were not. However, since 20 jurisdictions already use the blue lights, obviously, other positive legal opinions have been rendered in this matter. In 1982 a similar bill was introduced in the Legislature. The reason it was defeated at that time was because there were no studies done then to determine the effectiveness of blue lights. Those studies now have been done and they conclusively show that blue lights are much easier for motorists to see at night. During the day red lights are better, but the addition of blue at night greatly increases the visibility of the emergency vehicle. The other arguments were that if the lights were mandatory, it would be too expensive for