

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: (Mike not activated immediately.) ...George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We have with us Mr. Johnson, Reverend Johnson this morning for our invocation. Would you please rise.

REVEREND JOHNSON: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Harland Johnson, thank you again for your thoughtful prayer. We always appreciate them. Thank you. Roll call, please.

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

PRESIDENT: Do we have any corrections to the Journal today?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to introduce a special guest in the north balcony, if I may have your attention for a moment. We have a state representative, Tim Kelley of the 6th District, this is from the Missouri House of Representatives. Will you please stand and be welcomed to our Legislature. Thank you for visiting us today, Tim. He's a guest of Senator Roger Wehrbein, incidentally, if I didn't say that. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 8 and LR 9. Anything to read in, Pat?

CLERK: Not at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay. We'll move on to LR 10.

CLERK: Mr. President, prior to consideration of resolutions this morning, Speaker Barrett would move to suspend Rule 4, Section 6 and Rule 9, Section 2 to permit consideration of LRs 10 and 11 this morning.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett, are you going to move to the resolution, suspension, suspension of the rules?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yes, Mr. President, I would move to suspend Rule 4, Section 6 and Rule 9, Section 2 in order to permit us to discuss legislative resolutions 10 and 11. Thank you.

resolution unanimously. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT: Clerk O'Donnell, would you like to say something in addition to the obituary that has been offered? (Laughter.)

CLERK: Well, Mr. President, I hesitate, as you know, to exercise the privilege of the house, but I want the members to know that I appreciate the expression of sentiment on your parts. I'm looking forward to this coming year, and I feel very grateful and very proud to be affiliated with this Legislature in the capacity as Clerk. And, frankly, I wouldn't be in a position to be able to do the thing as Staff Chair this year without your support and without your contributions, and I owe all of you a debt of gratitude for that. So, thank you for that. Hopefully I'll represent the state well this year. As I've told a number of my colleagues from the various states around the country, we've got the best Legislature in the country, and I sincerely believe that. And thank you very much for your help and support.

PRESIDENT: Pat, we certainly do appreciate what you do for all of us. I think you can feel it from the reaction of the body that they certainly mean what they have said, and we do appreciate your services day after day, sometimes we take them for granted, but we always do appreciate them. Thank you very much. Good luck to you, of course, in your tenure coming up. Any further discussion? The question is the adoption of the resolution. Senator Chambers, your light was on, I didn't recognize...Okay. The question is the adoption of the resolution. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please. (Laughter.) Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 42 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. We'll move to LR 11.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 11 is introduced this morning by Senators Scofield, Wehrbein and Wesely. It asks...It reads as follows: (Read LR 11 as found on page 141 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield, with the pretty new dress.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I simply rise to issue a challenge to Senator Wesely to tell him that when Wesleyan comes out there we're going to be very gracious and welcome his team and beat 'em. Then we're going to go on and avenge ourselves against Peru State College who did slip by us the last time. With that, I would simply urge your adoption of the resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Barrett, please, followed by Senator Wesely and Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, I'm glad Senator Scofield brought this in. I look forward to having some friendly competition with her school. Wesleyan is playing Chadron, and may the best team win. Hopefully, whoever goes on from there will do well in the tournament in the future. But it's great to have that honor.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wehrbein, please.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I just want to say briefly I think it's unusual perhaps to have three teams from Nebraska playing at this time. As they play tomorrow, of course the Oklahoma game is going on here in Nebraska, but there are some of these teams that are obviously going to go on and win. I think the next game is next Saturday, if I'm not mistaken. So there is going to be opportunity to see them play, and I think it's a good chance to support Nebraska teams at this level. So I want to congratulate them, too.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, being a former graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan, my prediction for Saturday's game is Wesleyan 28, Chadron 14. (Laughter.) I have some very close friends who are on the team right now, in fact, the quarterback at Nebraska Wesleyan, Gary Fate, is a very close, personal friend, his family and my family are very close, and there are some other players on that team that come from the local Clay County area, in which I live. So we wish them the best. As I said, I think Wesleyan is the better team here.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, would you like to close. Chance for rebuttal.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: No, I don't think that's probably necessary, although I had...I apologize to Senator Johnson. I had forgotten that he has an interest in this game being a Wesleyan graduate. But I am really pleased to have this kind of honor come to Nebraska. I've seen particularly the enthusiasm that it's met at Chadron State, and so I'm sure it's had the same impact at Wesleyan and Peru. So it's just fun to be able to bring a resolution in like this. My only regret is that I can't attend the game tomorrow. I wish them all good luck. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of the resolution. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 11.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Move on to confirmation report of the Ag Committee.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson, as Chair of the committee, would report on the appointment of George Beattie, Director, Department of Agriculture.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, the Agriculture Committee did meet, on Wednesday, to interview Mr. Beattie to ask him questions. He responded in a favorable way that appealed to the committee. And we are very happy to report on the confirmation of Mr. George Beattie as the new Director of Agriculture, replacing a very fine man in Roy Frederick, who has gone back to the university. But George takes over, I think, in a capacity that will serve the department very well. So I would recommend the confirmation of Mr. George Beattie as our Agriculture Director.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rogers, please. Would you try a different microphone, please. Yours doesn't seem to work today.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. President and members, I would like to stand in support of the recommendation. I've known George Beattie I think probably ever since he was probably in kindergarten. I've known the family for years, and I think he'll make an excellent director for our department. So I'd