

February 15, 1990 LB 42, 50, 143, 159, 240, 240A, 259A
350, 350A, 465, 692, 742, 844, 866
905, 919, 1080A, 1082, 1141, 1183
LR 8, 239, 256

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 830 of the Legislative Journal.) 2 ayes, 28 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. Anything for the good of the cause, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I do. Mr. President, Senator Kristensen has amendments to be printed to LB 159; Senator Withem to LB 259A. (See pages 830-32 of the Legislative Journal.)

A new resolution, LR 256 by Senators Wesely, Withem, Bernard-Stevens. (Read brief explanation. See pages 832-33 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over.

An announcement from the Speaker regarding afternoon sessions next Tuesday, Mr. President; a reminder of the membership. Confirmation report from the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee. That is offered by Senator Haberman.

Bills have been presented to the Governor, Mr. President, as of 10:43 a.m., those read on Final Reading this morning. (Re: LB 50, LB 143, LB 240, LB 240A, LB 465, LB 350, LB 350A, LB 692, LB 742.) LR 8 presented directly to the Secretary of State.

A new A bill, LB 1080A by Senator Schellpeper. (Read for the first time by title. See page 834 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Revenue Committee reports LB 844 to General File, LB 919 to General File, LB 1183 General File, and LB 1082 as indefinitely postponed. Those all signed by Senator Hall.

Mr. President, priority bill designations, Senator Byars has chosen LB 905; and Senator Lamb LB 866.

Mr. President, Education Committee, whose Chair is Senator Withem, reports LB 1141 to General File with committee amendments attached, signed by Senator Withem; and Education Committee reports LR 239CA to General File with committee amendments attached. (See pages 834-36 of the Legislative Journal.)

Finally, Mr. President, Senator Rogers would like to add his name to LB 866; and Senators Weihsing, Goodrich, and Coordsen to

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, and members of the body, the Retirement Committee held the public hearing on the reappointment of Connie Witt to the Nebraska Retirement Systems. Connie Witt has been on the Public Employees Retirement Board for one year. She gave good testimony. She is learning fast. She has a background in education. So the committee unanimously on a four vote yes and two absent support the reappointment of Connie Witt to the Public Employees Retirement Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. It is just a real pleasure to second the reappointment of Connie Witt to this committee because she is...I know her really well. She does happen to be a constituent but that is not the only reason that I support her. She is a very intelligent woman and has an approach to problems with things that I have worked with her on that I always feel that she is objective and has the knowledge to carry her through on any problems or legislative bills that come to her attention. So it is just a real privilege to support Connie Witt's reappointment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the acceptance of the report of the Retirement Committee. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the confirmation report.

PRESIDENT: The report is adopted. Move on to number 6, LR 256.

CLERK: LR 256, Mr. President, offered by Senators Wesely, Withem and Bernard-Stevens is found on page 832 of the Journal, asking the Legislature to proclaim 1990 as a year of celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Head Start program.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, I had the privilege, a few days ago, to travel to Grand Island, Nebraska

to address the Head Start program and their kick-off for their celebration of their 25th anniversary. There were several hundred individuals at this ceremony, and it was quite a moving presentation. A slide show was prepared, different materials were prepared and I was very impressed by the work of the Head Start program. And so I left there and came back and discussed with Senator Withem and Senator Bernard-Stevens, who I also know have an interest in this, and we have co-sponsored this resolution. It merely calls to attention of Nebraskans the importance of Head Start and the fact that for 25 years now they've been in operation providing the following programs, Head Start was essentially targeted to low income children, or in some cases, particular cases, handicapped children that are at risk. Those children are then given the opportunity to participate in Head Start, which is in essence a preschool education program, given a head start on their educational needs, and there they work with teachers, and there is a low teacher-student ratio, and teachers with particular training in child development who work and assist these at-risk children and help them achieve their potential. As part of this program, Head Start also provides health care for these low income families, allowing them opportunities to get comprehensive health care, which they would not otherwise be able to afford. Also parents are very much involved in the program, recognizing that any success the program has is based in having the parents and the family being supportive and able to carry through and help in every way possible with the child. In addition, the social services available to children are referred to them, and they are given the opportunity to get assistance where they qualify. There are something like 2,500 children in Nebraska served by Head Start currently, on a year-to-year basis. In Lincoln, over the course of the 25 years, something like 5,000 children have been served by this program. I've passed out some articles that deal with this. A couple of them deal with the fact that President Bush is very supportive of the Head Start program, calling for, in his campaign, for more money in their budget and following up on that with putting more money in the budget for Head Start. In addition, there is an article by Don Walton in the Star about the personal impacts of Head Start. The thing I'd want to leave with you, if anything, is a little more understanding of what Head Start is, but also to identify for you the fact of what a tremendous success it's been, that a study was done on this program, now 25 years in existence. It has found that for every dollar we invested in Head Start we had a return of six dollars in various factors and improvements in

the lives of these children. But it's not a dollars and cents issue, it's a people issue, it's a children's issue. It's an attempt to recognize that children at-risk and low income children have to have assistance early on, and with that assistance can reach potentials that we never dreamed of. At the program I went to in Grand Island there was a young girl who had recently graduated from high school who was one of the early participants in the Head Start program, and you could see what a tremendous impact it had on her. And there are so many other thousands and thousands of examples like her, of children who have benefitted over the 25 years of this program. And, so in recognition of that achievement, we offer this resolution and hope that you will overwhelmingly, and hopefully unanimously support it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Just a real pleasure this morning to support this resolution to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Head Start. I've had some personal experience with the program, and also it ties in with LB 567, which is early childhood education, because the statistics on the Head Start program prove that these little ones who start...who have these advantages to have the preschool education in later years the Head Start statistics show that they went on to higher education, and that they didn't have the problems that some of their peers might have. About 23 years ago, I guess it would be, a young woman came to me to be housekeeper for me when I was working full time, and she was very...it was at the time that my youngest child was three years old. He became very close to her. And later, after she married, and the circumstances, she ended up a divorced mother with her little girl, alone. The little girl started...began Head Start when she was the age that she could do that, and it made all the difference in the world to her mother and to the family unit that she had to establish. And the little girl, the Head Start programs gave her a feeling of being able to cope with not having a daddy at home and that kind of thing. So, again, I just want to say I think...I'm so pleased that they introduced this resolution. I'm a little jealous, they didn't ask me to be on it, but thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, would you like to close? The question....Did you...okay.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I just appreciate Senator Crosby's comments, and again would encourage you to support this resolution. The program has been in place 25 years, done great things for children. Hopefully, we can follow up on the ground that has been plowed by this program and do additional things to help these children, recognizing their importance, and very much would urge your support for this resolution.

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

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

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Move on to LB 42. Will you refresh our memory as to where we were. Oh, excuse me, LB 923.

CLERK: Mr. President, 923 was a bill introduced by the Health and Human Services Committee. It is signed by a number of other members. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 3 of this year, referred to the Health and Human Services Committee for public hearing, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Health and Human Services Committee. (See page 625 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Yeah, real briefly, Mr. President, maybe I should start back and give you a summary of the bill and where the amendments come in. The situation with asbestos is one that you probably have been quite familiar with, that we did pass an Asbestos Control Act a couple of years ago. About a year ago, the rules and regulations to implement that act, which was passed in '88, I believe, those rules and regs were then put forward in April of '89, caused quite a stir among contractors and business people and homeowners across the State of Nebraska. The intent of that Asbestos Control Act was certainly admirable, and it should have been. I was one of the co-sponsors and believed very much in the initiative to try and protect people from exposure to asbestos, which is a very carcinogenic substance, as we all know, but the problems with the rules and regs resulted in part from very restrictive statutory language defining friable asbestos and other various aspects of the law

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We have with us this morning as our Chaplain of the day, Father David Parrish of the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Lincoln. Would you please stand for the invocation.

FATHER PARRISH: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: We thank you and appreciate your coming this morning. Thank you again. Please come back. Roll call, please. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

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

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, Natural Resources gives notice of confirmation hearing for February 28, signed by Senator Schmit.

I have an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Haberman regarding LB 1059. (See pages 854-58 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 LR 256. Senator Lynch, your bill is up but we don't see Senator Schmit around and we can't find him. Are you prepared to handle that? You will try. All right. We will move on to LB 10.., rather, LB 1146.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1146 was a bill introduced by Senator Schmit. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 16 of this year, Mr. President, referred to the Banking Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Mr. President, and members, I will do my best. I think I can explain it so that lay people can