

March 1, 1990

LB 369, 369A, 571, 594, 656, 980
LR 264

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: On the advancement of the bill, Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President, I would only say that I think this bill is in great shape now. There are only eight bills in it. Originally there were going to be 10, but two of them advanced on consent calendar, so I would ask that the bill be advanced.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: There are no other lights on, Senator Lamb. Would you care to close? Senator Lamb waives closing. The issue before you is the advancement of LB 369. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. It is advanced. Anything for the record, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. Your Committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports they have carefully examined and reviewed LB 571 and recommend that same be placed on Select File, LB 594 Select File, LB 656 Select File, with E & R attached. (See pages 1112-18 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a new resolution, LR 264 introduced by Senators Schmit, Landis and Wesely. (Read brief description. See page 1118 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over.

Senator Lamb has amendments to LB 980 to be printed. (See page 1119 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a new A bill, LB 369A offered by Senator Beyer. (Read by title for the first time. See page 1118 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. Senator Weihing, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move that we adjourn until Friday, March 2, tomorrow morning, at 9:00 a.m.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. You've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed nay. We are adjourned.

Proofed by: Debbie Smith
Debbie Smith

10230

SPEAKER BARRETT: LR 263 is adopted. Moving to LR 264.

CLERK: LR 264, Mr. President, was offered by Senators Wesely, Landis, Schmit. I have a request from Senator Hannibal and Smith to add their name as co-introducers. It's found on page 1118 of the Journal. It extends the Legislature congratulations to Mr. Roger Welsch on his receiving the Trailblazer Award.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, it's with great pleasure that I rise in support of LR 264, along with my co-introducers, Senator Landis, Senator Schmit and Senator Hannibal and Senator Smith and anybody else that would like to be on the resolution. Roger Welsch, I think, is known by most of us. He has entertained us time and again in different forums and has been an individual who is well known and well regarded throughout the state and now with his exposure on national TV and the national media across the country. Happens to be a very good friend of mine and I very much cherish that friendship. If you take a look at the resolution, it talks about Roger and the good times he brings to all of us and the different roles he plays as man about town of Dannebrog, which is his new home, formerly of Lincoln. His parents happen to reside in my district, are constituents, and he has moved up to Dannebrog though and there he has established a National Liars Hall of Fame which has brought fame to Dannebrog and to Nebraska. Among the different accolades he has received is including the fact that he has been featured in the National Enquirer and, of course, you know my tendency to use that as a very reliable source. I used it one time on the pit bulls eating the mobile home and that certainly helped that legislation as we passed it recently, and Senator Hall isn't here, but he will recall it. And I'll pass this around, again, from the National Enquirer, it talks about the Liars Hall of Fame. Among the different best lies that they had were it was so dry last summer my cows gave powdered milk. My wife is so ugly, I take her everywhere I go because I can't stand to kiss her good-bye. There are any number of witticisms here that you can use and borrow and steal as you give speeches in your districts, just give credit back to the Liars Hall of Fame and Roger Welsch who started it all. In fact, I must add this. I don't know if this has been made public before. I don't know if Roger even wants anybody to know, but he...his lies are so big, so incredible they are not

even allowed any longer in the National Enquirer. The National Enquirer did run this and wanted to follow up and do a regular feature on the Liars Hall of Fame and so they asked Roger to send a picture of himself, picture of the National Liars Hall of Fame. He sent a picture, I believe it was of Robert Redford and of the Taj Mahal as the site of the hall of fame. They, of course, realized that he was lying and were offended by his lack of authenticity and accuracy and the National Enquirer refused to run that, which is, of course, the highest compliment that anybody could ever receive as to their integrity. So I, for one, have great fondness, respect for Roger and I hope that we will extend him this congratulation for the award he has received by the Nebraskaland Foundation.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion? Senator Landis, followed by Senator Schmit. (Gavel.)

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, enjoy Roger Welsch, but let's admit it, we all know him and Roger can be a little big-headed at times. This being a ceremonial resolution, I would suggest that we manage the board so well that the resolution pass by only one or two votes. It would be great to send him a resolution that passed like 14 to 12, or something like that, and I, personally, will be spending my time trying to balance up the board with a near equal amount of red lights just so that Roger doesn't get too big-headed on us on the passage of this resolution.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, it comes as no surprise to most of you that I did not know Mr. Welsch nearly as early as most of you did. It came as a surprise to me that he was not one of my admirers and I believe it turned out that he and I and Senator Wesely were locked into a small airplane flying across the country out to Scottsbluff one time and by the time we got on board we did not know if we would even speak to each other. By the time we got off, we were quite good friends and have remained so ever since. It might not be a bad idea for me and Senator Morrissey and some others to get in an airplane sometime and travel across the state. I don't know what would happen. I took one time Senator Jim Dixon and Senator Tom Kennedy on a helicopter ride without any doors and they both became friends of mine before we got down. So I didn't have to resort to that with Senator...or with Mr. Welsch. But it is a real honor for

me to be able to add my name to this resolution and to support him. Thank you very much.

SENATOR HANNIBAL PRESIDING

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I don't know what I can add to the accolades already of being the champion liar that Roger seems to have become through arduous work the epitome of the big round table that exists in most of our local gathering places. But I think that in keeping with Senator Landis's suggestion that since I have come to know Roger as not only one of the better fabricators in the State of Nebraska he is also a thief, because I seem to recall several good truthful stories that I had shared with him that suddenly became public property. And so I have reciprocated from time to time in stealing his good material, all of which I am sure are based on the truth. So I will have to watch the board to see whether I'm willing to support the congratulations for this particular devious, underhanded type of individual that epitomizes all that's good in outstate Nebraska.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Rogers, please, followed by Senator Scofield and Smith.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. President and members, I don't know whether you all realize this but Roger is now my constituent and I think you all should be aware that he put Dannebrog on the map as far as Nebraska is concerned and as far as the nation is concerned. And if any of you are in Dannebrog, I would really encourage you to stop at the home of the liar's club. It's quite an office building and I'm sure you wouldn't forget it once you've seen it. And I would like to have my name added to the resolution also.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Senator Scofield, please.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I, too, have asked to have my name added to this resolution and then listening to what an unsavory character this man really is, I'm having second thoughts here. He has worked his way out into my district and sampled the coffeeburgers at Sioux Sundries in Harrison and he showed up at the Willow Tree Festival in Gordon

and, frankly, we were kind of taken with the idea of being on national television. And so I decided this guy is probably okay and I better put my name on this resolution. But now in light of the exposure here of just what kind of fellow might be out there trying to win the hearts of everybody statewide maybe we should watch him a little bit more closely than we are. Seriously though, it's been fun to hear from people, friends and relatives around the country, who have watched Roger's Postcard From Nebraska on national television. It's probably the best thing that's ever happened to us in terms of nationwide exposure, and not only for Dannebrog but for the whole state. And I understand there are even people driving into Dannebrog from parts unknown that had never heard of Dannebrog, Nebraska. So, as I said, we probably want to be careful how we register votes on this. Senator Landis is absolutely correct. But so I can't decide whether I will vote for it or against it, but he has been out trying to get us on board in the west too.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Scofield. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. So much has been said in admiration for Roger it's kind of hard to add anything. I would just say that I have known Roger a lot longer than he has known me. Years ago when I was a school teacher, Roger was a Professor at the University of Nebraska and taught some classes that I was able to participate in and I have always had a lot of admiration for him as an instructor. Later on he went on to bigger and better things and, as we all know, as has been expressed here on the floor, he has done a lot for those people that call themselves liars and the community of Dannebrog. But, to me, the greatest thing that he has done is to express not only his love of the State of Nebraska and for its citizens but has made great contributions to the state in its history, folklore, et cetera. We can be very proud of Roger as a fellow Nebraskan. I received a letter from Roger yesterday and in that letter he told me that he has changed his opinion of the legislative body, so we can all be grateful for that or at least hope that that's not a lie. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I don't want to belabor this. I, too, ask for my name to be added. I also receive communication

from Roger quite often. One of the postcards that he sent me the other day happens to be black with a white border around it and that says "Dannebrog At Night", which is probably exactly right. With that, I will not add anything else to his comments.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Yes, Mr. President, and members, thank you. I support the resolution. Simply want to remind Senator Schmit that he and I were locked inside of an airplane, a small airplane on a very harrowing trip across the state and back and it was one of the pleasant experiences I have ever known in my life. And with that last statement, I feel I could be inducted into the Liars Hall of Fame. Thank you.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. There are no further lights on. Senator Wesely, would you care to close on the resolution?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I appreciate everybody's comments and, of course, anybody that wants to co-sign, it's fine, and Senator Landis indicated he would like to have this a close vote and it appropriately should be. I want to give you the rest of the story with Senator Schmit and myself who was on the Nebraska Shares Project. We worked on it a few years ago and we did fly in a small plane with Roger across the state and the interesting conclusion to the story was we did become good friends and I knew Roger before and Loran hadn't and we ended up going out to eat at the Melbeta Flame, which is outside of Scottsbluff, which was our last stop on the trip and there we were with a local resident and went out to the Melbeta Flame and sat down to eat and that local resident saw some friends and went over to the other table. He came back laughing and we said, what's so funny? And he said, well, I went over to this other table and here we had walked in with Senator Schmit, myself and Roger Welsch, sat down with this person and, like I said, he came back from talking to these other people. And this person said, well, they were all excited to see me come in here and they wanted to know, is that Roger Welsch you're sitting down there with for dinner? Is that really Roger Welsch? And he said, yeah, it is. He said, wow, Roger Welsch, that's really neat. Who are those other two guys you're with? Good old Roger has got us all eclipsed, I'm afraid, but we're going to do our best to get back at him here. So I move for the adoption of the resolution. Let's hope it's a close vote.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. The issue before you is the passage of resolution LR 264. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk. Never mind. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 19 ayes, 14 nays, on adoption of the resolution, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: The resolution is adopted. LR 265.

CLERK: Mr. President, 265 introduced by Senator Chambers, congratulating the Omaha North High School Vikings wrestling team for having won the Class A, Senator, high school wrestling championship.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, these young men set a record in winning this state championship, they won several of them, but this year I'm particularly interested in them achieving some notoriety for what they have done. I would much rather see young men tossing bodies, grappling with bodies on a mat rather than making bodies or producing bodies on the street. So if those who engage in these worthwhile activities, especially in the context of a school setting, can be held up as role models and if it can be shown that they will be recognized when they do something worthwhile, it could be an encouragement to others to do something that is constructive. In addition to that, I've always admired wrestlers, not "wrasslers", but wrestlers because of the physical and mental conditioning that is required for the sport. I think it is the most strenuous, one of the most difficult because it requires individual determination, effort and ability. So I hope that you will vote for this resolution to congratulate the team and take note of the work done by the coach and the staff who produced such a record.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, there are no other lights on. Would you care to close? He waives closing. The issue before you is the advancement of LR 265. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

March 6, 1990

LB 1059
LR 262-265

repeated occasions, have been found wanting by federal courts that say children have become prejudiced by the checkerboard financing effect in various states, Texas being among them, Tennessee being another. That in fact promises like that are not empty words, but are binding on Legislatures, and to the extent that Legislatures turn a deaf ear to the needs of students and to allow the variations of wealth to produce inferior educations for children, those Legislatures are not performing their constitutional obligations.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: We owe kids in this state a good public education, no matter where they come from, no matter how wealthy their parents are, no matter how wealthy their district is, that's our constitutional obligation. And 1059 seeks to replace a system which falls short, in my estimation, of that constitutional obligation. It says, first, that we should expand our notions of what wealth is, beyond just property and you and I know how skewed that system is. It says we add to that analysis local income, and we ask for the contributions of those whose wealth is in the form of income rather than property, and that's just. Beyond that point, 1059 says, listen, if you look at both property and income and your district is not well enough off, you're going to turn our backs on the old system of foundation aid that had no relationship to need, and we're going to take the state's portion of money and use it to equalize between the wealthy districts and the poor districts...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...to meet that constitutional obligation. And that is my rationale to explain to unhappy and I'm sure dissatisfied constituents who will not be pleased to know that their total tax burden will go up probably beyond the measure of their property tax relief under this measure. But, for me, that's a sufficient justification, and I intend to vote for this bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 265, LR 264, LR 263, and LR 262. Senator Schmit, would you care to discuss the advancement of the bill, followed by Senators McFarland, Elmer, Nelson and Hartnett.