

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. We have with us this morning as our chaplain of the day, Pastor Charles Tyler of the Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church in Omaha. Would you please rise for the invocation.

PASTOR TYLER: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT: Pastor Tyler, thank you. We appreciate it this morning. Roll call, please. Record, Mr. Clerk.

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

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: No corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Do you have any messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: One item, a report received from the Nebraska Energy Office required to be filed with the Clerk's Office pursuant to statute and that will be on file in my office, Mr. President. That's all that I have.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. We'll move on to Legislative Resolutions, LR 396.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 396 was a resolution introduced by Senator Wesely. It's found on page 1602 of the Journal. It asks that the month of April be proclaimed as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Fine. I was talking to Senator Hannibal. Mr. President, members, I appreciate the opportunity to introduce LR 396, recognizing this as child abuse month. Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized during April, and I have passed out for you an article that came out this morning in the Lincoln Star talking about the problem of child abuse. And I think it highlights again for the general public the concern there is and the desire to deal with the problem of child abuse. As you can see from the chart that I've passed out, we have seen

an explosion in child abuse complaints and investigations in this state. We've gone from something around less than 2,000 in 1977 to close to 8,000 in 1985, a quadrupling of investigations in child abuse. I don't think we can assume from that that we've had four times as much cases of child abuse. We simply have become more aware and less tolerant of child abuse in this state so we are now trying to take the steps necessary to deal with that problem all the way from increasing the number of workers investigating complaints to increasing the attorneys in the Attorney General's Office to prosecute these child abuse complaints. I think this Legislature has shown its compassion and concern for the children of this state in objection and opposition to the abuse of those children, and I am very proud of this Legislature for that. There is another handout I've passed out about child abuse prevention month, and I also want to say that this is the Week of the Young Child. In fact, in about 45 minutes there will be a parade and a ceremony out on the steps of the Capitol recognizing this as the Week of the Young Child so it's most appropriate that today we recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Week of the Young Child. Urge your support for the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Any further discussion? If not, the question is the adoption of the resolution. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 396.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Move on to LR 397, please.

CLERK: LR 397, Mr. President, is found on page 1629 of the Journal. The Natural Resources Committee, it asks the Legislature to urge Congress to support and advance the electric power industry clean air alternative which is supported by the Nebraska Power Association and the nation's electrical utility industry.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb, are you going to handle this resolution, or Senator Morrissey? Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President. This is the resolution which was proposed because of the problems that federal regulators are putting on our electric industry in this state. And, basically, it boils down to the fact that Nebraska has clean air already,

April 2, 1990

LB 1124
LR 396, 397

There may be a little fine tuning that needs to be adjusted but I will support the Warner amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith, your light is on but it was on before. All right, thank you. Senator Hall, did you wish to talk about the Warner amendment?

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. My only question, I am sure that the amendment is germane to the bill, the question is, I guess, whether it is germane to the committee amendments, but I don't see any...and they both deal with the tax. The one...the committee amendments don't deal with the issue of the trust fund or the commissioner in terms of the estimates, but it is Senator Schmit's bill and I don't have any problem with the amendment, whether it be to the bill or to the committee amendments. So I would support the adoption. There was this issue touched on in the Revenue Committee when the bill was brought up, impact that the change in the retail credit would have on the Highway Trust Fund. It was debated but determined by both, I think, the proponents and the opponents as well as the committee that it could be worked out. I think Senator Warner's amendment is clearly just that, so I would urge its adoption as well.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, did you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR WARNER: Only to say, Mr. President, if there is a problem about the amendment, I am perfectly...if it becomes controversial, I will be perfectly willing to have it go to the bill rather than the committee amendment. I think it just was drafted that way, but if it is noncontroversial, well, I would just move its adoption.

PRESIDENT: Fine, thank you. The question is the adoption of the Warner amendment to the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Warner's amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: The Warner amendment to the committee amendments is adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 396 and LR 397. We are back to the committee amendments. Senator