

March 7, 1989

LB 135, 136, 246, 324, 402, 605, 698
702, 775
LR 46, 47, 48

SENATOR HABERMAN: Regular order.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Regular order. That is in order. Will members please sit in their seats in preparation for a roll call vote. Proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote read. See pages 1006-07 of the Legislative Journal.) 25 ayes, 18 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted and the call is raised. Mr. Clerk, anything further on the bill?

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: That being the case, the Chair is pleased to take this opportunity to announce that Senator Rod Johnson has some very special guests. Under the south balcony, we have Yuki and Maki Machino and Eiko Sieto from Tokyo, Japan, with Mrs. Omer Troester of Hampton. Would you ladies please stand. Thank you. We're very pleased to have you as our guests this morning. For the record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, new resolutions, LR 46 by Senator Baack. (Read brief description of LR 46 as found on page 1007 of the Legislative Journal.) LR 47 by Senator Conway. (Read brief description of LR 47 as found on page 1008 of the Legislative Journal.) LR 48 by Senator Langford. (Read brief description of LR 48 as found on page 1008 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Education offers notice of confirmation hearing. (See page 1009 of the Legislative Journal regarding appointment of J.L. Spray to the Coordinating Committee for Postsecondary Education.)

Your Committee on Business and Labor offers a corrected Standing Committee report to LB 605, and reports LB 698 as indefinitely postponed, both of those signed by Senator Coordsen.

Government Committee reports LB 135 to General File; LB 324, General File; LB 702, General File; LB 136, indefinitely postponed; LB 246, indefinitely postponed; LB 402, indefinitely postponed, all signed by Senator Baack as Chair. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

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reigning Class D-2 championship basketball team, completed last week. And I would offer this to the body with my wholehearted congratulations to their school and their coaches, and I'd ask for its passage.

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

CLERK: 22 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 44.

PRESIDENT: LR 44 is adopted. LR 45.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 45, offered by Senator Korshoj, found on page 997 of the Journal. It asks the membership to congratulate the Blair High School girls basketball team for having won the Class B state basketball championship.

PRESIDENT: Senator Korshoj, please.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. President and members, I'm also back here with a basketball resolution. It's the Blair High Bears girls team who won the Class B championship with a 24 and 1 record. It's the very first time they have won the state championship. They have an extremely good team, or they wouldn't have won of course, and I want to pay them tribute by this resolution. That is really all I have to say. Thank you.

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

CLERK: 23 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 45.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. LR 46, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 46, offered by Senator Baack, found on page 1007 of the Journal. It asks the members to congratulate the Potter-Dix Lady Coyotes for their championship win in Class D-1.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. Mr. President, members, this is a resolution honoring the girls team from Potter-Dix, which is the

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first team from the Panhandle of Nebraska to ever win a championship in the girls basketball tournaments. So this is honoring them. Yes. 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: 15 ayes, on approval of the resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. LR 47, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 47 is a resolution offered by Senator Conway and Senator Hartnett has added his name, Mr. President. It congratulates the Emerson-Hubbard girl's basketball team for winning the Class C-2 girls state basketball championship.

PRESIDENT: Senator Conway, please.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker and members, Emerson-Hubbard girls completed a perfect season this year at 23 and 0, came to state, won the Class C-2 tournaments. And this resolution is intended to honor them for their accomplishments. It may seem strange that an Omaha senator co-signed this particular legislation with me, with Emerson-Hubbard being an interesting community where it...the city limits of the town is within three counties, even though it's a relatively small community. It's a consolidated school. The reason that I have an Omaha senator co-signing with me in this case is, one, that that is his original stomping grounds, and, two, it is a consolidated institution, and the Hubbard portion once had a high school and then it eventually consolidated with Emerson. And my friend, Senator Hartnett, was the last superintendent. In fact he has the distinction of being the one that closed the Hubbard school when the merger was there when he was the superintendent. (Laughter.) So that's why he's on the resolution, he's trying to, I think, get back in their good graces after what he did to the community.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hartnett, was that your contribution to the organization?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes. Mr. President, members of the body, one of the things I did when I was a young man is to do that, because I think it's made a much better educational program for both communities by combining Emerson-Hubbard. I think it's

members of the Nebraska Wheathearts, which is an organization over all the state, of course, and their names are...and would you ladies please stand, Nadine Free of McCook, Lorraine Haas of Hemingford, Nina Papik of Crete, Kim and Jane Elliot of Alliance, Jo Balsenberger of Bushnell. Would you ladies...would you please welcome these ladies to the Legislature. Thank you for your gift this morning and you ladies and gentlemen in the organization perhaps would like to thank them for it. Thank you for visiting us today. Move on to LR 50. But may I say that while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 44, LR 45, LR 46, LR 47, LR 48, LR 49, and that's it. All right, we'll move on to LR 50, please.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 50 offered by Senators Hefner, Lowell Johnson, Warner, Moore, Langford and Beyer. It's found on page 1017 of the Journal. (Read brief description of LR 50.)

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Ladies and gentlemen, may we please have your attention so we can proceed. Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR HEFNER: LR 50 is a resolution to be sent to the Nebraska Congressional delegation and the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs. And you will find this on page 1017 if you want to read it. But what it does, it calls attention to budget cuts made in services offered by Veterans Administration Medical Centers. Budget cuts have been made in services offered by VA Medical Centers in the last few years. The cuts affect the services in two ways. The services offered by VA Medical Centers are being reduced and in some cases to the point that some centers may be closed and the number of veterans served is being reduced. Now Nebraska has three VA Medical Centers, Lincoln, Grand Island and Omaha, and all three have been affected by these cuts. These cuts have not reduced the medical needs of veterans, of course. If VA Centers are closed, veterans will be forced to seek medical care from other care facilities, many of which already are overburdened. In some cases, veterans have no insurance or may be ineligible for health insurance. The lack of insurance simply means that the cost of their care will be passed on to others in cases where they are unable to pay for their own health care costs. It is very unreasonable to expect anyone to pay for expensive health care without the aid of insurance or government assistance in the face of today's rising expensive health care costs. Prior to these budget cuts, veterans were assured their health needs