

March 7, 1989

LB 262, 285, 505, 594, 609, 653
LR 50

LB 262 by Senators Conway, Baack and Bernard-Stevens. Banking Committee reports LB 505 to General File with amendments, signed by Senator Landis as Chair. Transportation reports LB 285 to General File with amendments, and LB 653 to General File with amendments, those signed by Senator Lamb. (Journal shows LB 653 reported by Revenue Committee. See pages 1015-16 of the Legislative Journal.)

New resolution, LR 50. (Read brief explanation. See pages 1017-18 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Elmer would like to withdraw LB 609. That will be laid over. And Senator Smith would like to add her name to LB 594 as co-introducer, Mr. President. That is all that I have.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schimek, would you like to adjourn us until tomorrow at nine o'clock, please.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Mr. President, I so move that we adjourn until tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, March 8.

PRESIDENT: You have heard the motion. All in favor say aye. Anybody say aye. Opposed no. We are adjourned until tomorrow.

Proofed by:

Arleen McCrory
Arleen McCrory

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

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would be met. It is unwise, I believe, for the federal government to make cuts in the services offered by the VA Med Centers. The burden will merely be passed on to other programs. The federal government has been looking for ways to hold health care costs to a minimum and to ensure that everyone in need of health care has access to it. It simply makes no sense to me to make cuts in the VA health care and so I would urge you to support this amendment...this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, just briefly I rise to also support LR 50 sponsored by Senator Hefner and co-sponsored by several other senators, including myself. Quite simply, myself being of the age where the last time this country was at war I was not even a teenager yet and, obviously, the people that were involved in the big wars, World War I and World War II, I guess, I, myself, think that those ladies and gentlemen who served in all of those wars that we have some duty to care for their health needs as they age. And they came to our country in a time of need and now as they age it's only right for a government in a variety of ways, primarily the federal level, I don't think it's right for them to cut back on services that are very important for people and the federal government should not let those people down when they were there for all of us in a variety of wartime conflicts. And I guess I just simply urge passage of LR 50.

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

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of LR 50.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is adopted. Ladies and gentlemen, if you will return to your seats, we will begin Final Reading. (Gavel.) If you will return to your seats, we will begin Final Reading, please. Mr. Clerk, LB 284.

CLERK: (Read LB 284 on Final Reading.)

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 284 pass?

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regarding LB 346, to be inserted, Mr. President. (See pages 1069-73 of the Legislative Journal.)

And the last item I have is LR 50 is ready for your signature, Mr. President. And that's all that I have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 50. Before proceeding, Senator Wehrbein is announcing the following guests are visiting the Legislature. In the north balcony we have 50 junior and senior high students of the Senior Government and Business Law class from Palmyra, and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you. We're delighted to have you with us this morning. Mr. Clerk, confirmation report.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on the appointment of Ms. Demarus Carlson of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds. The report is found on 1035 of the Journal, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Education Chairman Senator Ron Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, the Education Committee heard a...had a public hearing on the Governor's appointment of Demarus Carlson to serve on the Board of Education Lands and Funds. We were favorably impressed, particularly when Senator Elroy Hefner came forward to put his neck on the line on behalf of this nominee. The committee reported the recommendation favorably to the floor and the committee urges your favorable consideration of this gubernatorial appointment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just want to rise in support of the amendment...the resolution. I think that Ms. Carlson is a long-time friend and her husband is a long-time associate of mine in the practice of veterinary medicine. They are very public-spirited, public-minded people, have served in various capacities as state appointees and I think that she is a very qualified individual for this particular appointment. Thank you.