

April 3, 1989

LB 89, 95, 247, 588, 762
LR 2, 69

SENATOR LANDIS: I will take just another 30 seconds to complete the answer to Senator Hannibal's question. We do not now have the staff at the state level to be able to do analysis on natural gas regulation. We would have to go out and hire that. The methodology that we have for cities to go out and control natural gas rates is for them to band together and get a consultant for a limited period of time to examine each rate increase by a utility. When they're not faced with that, the staff is not permanent. They've just hired a consultant. If the state is in this business, we'll likely either have to gear up and bring staff in or, in the alternative, we'll have to duplicate the very authority that the cities have which is to use a limited amount of service on an as needed basis by going out into the marketplace and hiring consultants. The former, I think, is far too expensive for its utilization pattern and the second is basically duplicative of existing mechanisms. That's why I think city regulation makes sense. I support LB 95 and urge you to do as well.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Shall LB 95 be advanced to E & R Initial? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of the bill. Have you all voted? Record, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 95.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 95 is advanced. Anything for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, new resolution, LR 69, offered by Senator Pirsch. (Read brief description of the resolution. See pages 1447-48 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over.

Amendments to be printed from Senators Withem to LB 588; Senator Lynch to LB 89; Senator Moore to LB 89; Senator Withem to LB 247, and amendments to LR 2, Mr. President. (See pages 1448-56 of the Legislative Journal.) And that is all that I have.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. To LB 762.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 762 was a bill introduced by the Revenue Committee. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 19 and referred to the Revenue Committee for public

April 7, 1989

LR 69, 70, 73

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: (Microphone not activated)...invocation this morning by Pastor Lincoln Justice of Lakeview Methodist Church here in Lincoln. Reverend Justice.

REVEREND JUSTICE: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Reverend Justice. We are pleased to have you with us. Roll call.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, Department of Roads offers a report pursuant to LR 386, passed this last year by the Eighty-Ninth Legislature, Second Session. And, Mr. President, LR 70 and LR 73 are ready for your signature. That's all that I have, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. And while the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 70 and LR 73. To Item 5, Mr. Clerk, legislative resolution.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 69, offered by Senator Pirsch, found on page 1447 of the Journal. It asks the Legislature to designate and proclaim the week of April 9 to 15 as Victim's Rights Week in the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Pirsch, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, this resolution calls your attention to those number of Nebraskans who have been victims of crime and specifically victims of violent crime in 1987, our last compiled list. And we are also calling attention to the fact that crime, violent crime seems to be increasingly brutal, due to the increase in drug related criminal activity. And, of course, this kind of activity leaves victims often times vulnerable and further

victimized by the criminal justice system. We are calling attention to the citizens and institutions, both public and private, to support and enforce victim rights and services in this state. And we ask your support to declare that the week of April 9 to the 15th will be known as Victim Rights Week in Nebraska. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any discussion? If not, those in favor of the adoption of LR 69 please vote aye, opposed nay. Record.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: The resolution is adopted. Perhaps an announcement or two might be in order at this time, ladies and gentlemen. (Gavel.) I would like to announce that the agenda today, starting with Item 7, list of the bills which have been processed on consent calendar, with your permission I would like to stop in this morning's activities, somewhere around eleven-thirty or so, and move these bills on a voice vote which do not have amendments on them. The bills that we are aware of at this point that come off of this list, if you'll follow through with me, LB 87, on the second page, the next bill LB 220, the next bill 399, followed by 695, moving toward the bottom of the page 486, 408, and 408A, then finally 566. These are bills which will not be addressed. Correction, 488, yes. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: As a matter of fact, I do. (Laughter.) If there are further...if there are additional bills to be removed from this list, you will be advised, hopefully, before we pause and voice vote these bills across. Also at this point, (gavel) at this point, I would like to make a very brief statement. It seems that every session we have to pause and talk about such mundane things as absenteeism, as lateness, as calls of the house that go unanswered. We are wasting a great deal of time and perhaps this is the wish of the body. But I think it's incumbent upon me to at least tell you that under the present pattern that I see, the trend, we will have lost approximately one full week of work days by the end of this session. It is not unusual for us to take 15 minutes in the morning and 15 minutes in the afternoon to make an appearance in this Chamber.

April 10, 1989

LB 356
LR 69

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber and this the sixty-second working day in the life of the First Session of the Ninety-First Legislature. Chaplain of the day, the opening prayer, Mr. Harland Johnson. (Gavel.)

HARLAND JOHNSON: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Harland, very much. Roll call.

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

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. With a quorum present, any corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections this morning, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any reports, announcements or messages?

CLERK: Mr. President, I have no reports, messages or announcements at this time.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign LR 69. (See page 1596 of the Legislative Journal.) Moving to General File, Mr. Clerk, 1989 Senator priority bills, LB 356. (Gavel.)

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 356 was introduced by Senator Landis and a number of members. (Title read.) The bill was introduced on January 11 of this year, referred to the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair of the Banking Committee, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the committee amendment strikes references in this bill that apply to Commonwealth and it is only because duty constrains me that I stand here to make this motion. My light is on, Mr. Speaker,