

March 16, 1976

Public Works, to whom was referred LB 792, 935 and 1002 report all of them as indefinitely postponed.

Senator George asked to be excused at 6 o'clock on this day.

LR 133 will be referred to the Executive Board. LR 134 will be laid over. LR 135 will be referred to the Executive Board; and 136 laid over.

Mr. President, motion on the desk. I move to amend LB 691 as follows: (Read Barnett amendment found on page 1157 of the Journal).

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I've talked to Senator Marvel a little bit explaining, I don't know whether he's in favor of this or not, or how they feel about it. I'll try to make it short and not take up too much time on this amendment. What I'm attempting to do here is to remove from the Fire Marshalls Office the Pipeline Safety Division. There is the operation presently, I think, with three employees in the Fire Marshall's Office that has to do with pipeline inspection and pipeline safety. It is from the meter out. In other words, from the pipeline that comes into the meter, period. At that time it's taken over by the deputy fire marshall's in the State of Nebraska. There is definitely a conflict, at the present time, with having this Division within the Fire Marshall's Office. It was brought about at the Yutan pipeline explosion which I was then a member of the Fire Marshall's Office. It was brought about by that pipeline explosion when the federal government come in and said we would set up a pipeline safety act for inspection in the State of Nebraska. Now they fund the program with some funding from the meters that are in the State of Nebraska. I would point out to this body that only four other states, besides Nebraska, have it in the Fire Marshall's Office or some other office other than the Public Service Commission Office. I did visit with the Fire Marshall about this at one time. I have also visited with the Governor's Office. I also have visited with the Public Service Commission, one of the members of the Public Service Commission. There has not been any adverse directives or conversations with anybody about it. I think that what it would do would be to put the pipeline problems, transportation, safety, inspection, rates, everything under one division and under one office. At the present time if a deputy fire marshall goes out to inspect pipeline or investigates a fire where there is pipeline, he has an automatic conflict due to the fact that the Fire Marshall's Office likes to maintain materials that are created by or caused problems with fires, explosions, etc. If we transfer it unto another agency this conflict will not exist because the federal government regulates the Pipeline Safety Act, the pipeline safety investigations, the pipeline safety materials, any part of evidence that results from pipeline problems. I would hope that this body would see fit to transfer this over into an area where it would be more in line with other pipeline problems. Therefore, I would ask for the adoption of this amendment. It does not require any money in additional funds. All it does is try to consolidate the work in the pipeline area, instead of having a split function at this time. Therefore, I'd ask for the adoption of this amendment.