

April 18, 1983

LR 60
LB 626

CLERK: Mr. President, if I may right before that, Banking reports 626 advanced to General File with committee amendments attached.

Mr. President, LR 60 offered by Senators Pirsch, Sieck, Kilgarin, and Goodrich, found on page 1495 of the Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President. I hope you all read the resolution on page 1495. In 1980 when I first introduced a resolution regarding victims, we called this week, the commemoration of this week "Forgotton Victims Week" because of the way that victims had been ignored and often further victimized by the criminal justice system but I am happy to say that the Nebraska Legislature has made, in fact been leaders, in the help and aid that is given to the victims of crime in Nebraska. The Criminal Reparations Board, our victim witness units which were established in 1981 which we have established in Kearney and Lincoln, which are actively using volunteers to help victims of crime. It is interesting that this week also is Volunteer Week because this is one of the strengths of the victim witness assistance in the State of Nebraska is those dedicated volunteers who have sometimes been victims themselves and understand the plight, the confusion, sometimes the anger and outrage of a victim of crime. And I might remind you that this year this body passed an important aid to victims in passing the victim impact statement so the victim has some way of informing the justice system of the loss, of the expense, and of the continuing of impact that a crime on their person would have. And so I urge you today to support this resolution on victims and further show the concern that the Nebraska Legislature is famous for. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I also support this resolution. It is an endeavor that I have had since I have been down in the Legislature to recognize the victim and give them some relief in the area of the court system. Sometimes I get a little disturbed when I see the system protecting the criminals a lot more than they are the prisoners or the victims. An instance where we have the Jail Standards Board now and it seems like we have got to watch those prisoners every minute of the time where we let the victims just go on and be on their own. We seem to care more about the prisoners than we do the victims and I think this is a step in the right direction recognizing