

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this bill is a comprehensive change in the theory of the way that we deal with conflict of interest for local political subdivisions. The committee amendment which we will take first deals with the situation of cities which currently now have a statutory maximum amount in which its elected officials or appointed officials can have an interest with the city. That amount is \$10,000. LB 370 provides a different mechanism for controlling conflicts of interest. That theory is one of full disclosure and one of no participation by the interested party. It does not admit to the theory of statutory maximums. However, in the event a city would like to pass an ordinance setting a maximum amount for their city council members or employees, they can do so under the committee amendments to LB 370. The committee amendments then is a grant of authority to cities to set their own standards in addition to the obligations of full disclosure and no participation by interested parties in the setting of contracts between city council members and the city. I would move the adoption of the committee amendment and I will be happy to explain the theory of the bill and the way it operates.

PRESIDENT: Motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 370. Is there further discussion? If not, all those in favor of the amendments vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the committee amendments to LB 370. Please record your vote. Please record your vote on the committee amendments to LB 370. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Motion carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I have in my hand a report and findings of investigation in a grand jury in Dodge County, Nebraska, a grand jury called together for the purpose of examining practices in that area which were allegedly conflicts of interest. Let me read to you what a collection of citizens called together in the form of a grand jury had to say about Nebraska law in the area of conflict of interest. The grand jury finds that Nebraska statute 23-146 governing conflict of interest for county officials and officers places those officials and officers as well as the taxpayers who rely on that statute for protection in such a state of confusion that it is extremely difficult to interpret the law. Does