

March 27, 1984

LB 845

Mr. President, with respect to LB 845, was a bill offered by the Judiciary Committee and signed by its members. (Title read.) The bill was first read on January 6 of this year, Mr. President. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are Judiciary Committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

CLERK: Senator, do you want to take up your amendments to the committee amendments or do would you rather go with the committee amendments first?

SENATOR BEUTLER: If I could, Mr. Clerk, why don't I explain the bill a little bit and then explain the committee amendments and then we can go to the amendment to the committee amendments and that might give people a little better perspective on what is happening. LB 845, members of the Legislature, is this year's attack on those who don't support their children. The bill has 30 different sections and I want to briefly describe to you the important sections of the bill and where they are in the bill so that if you are interested in any particular sections you can take a closer look at it. Basically one through five, Sections 1 through 5 of the bill deal with paternity suits, the determination of the parenthood of a child and for the first time, with this bill, we are going to write into statute the provision that the court can require a child, a mother and a father to submit to genetic testing to determine the parenthood of a child and we are saying that in addition to giving the court the power to require this testing, that in addition the results of that test, the results of the testing is going to be admissible into evidence for the purpose of proving that a particular individual is the parent of a child. In almost all cases we are talking about the male being the father of the child. Up to this point in time in Nebraska law those tests have been allowed by the court uniformly to prove that the male is not the father of the child but not the other way around. That particular distinction is breaking down somewhat in the case law but in this bill we are putting it into statutes so that in each and every case hereafter these kinds of genetic tests, which