

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
January 28, 2015

[LB18 LB31 LB40 LB43 LB88 LB109 LB111 LB118 LB149 LB151 LB157 LB168 LB187
LB190 LB198 LB219 LB269 LB330 LB338 LB432 LB619 LR23 LR44 LR45]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS SENATOR RIEPE. PLEASE RISE.

SENATOR RIEPE: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR RIEPE. I CALL TO ORDER THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD.

CLERK: I HAVE A QUORUM PRESENT, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. ARE THERE ANY CORRECTIONS FOR THE JOURNAL?

CLERK: I HAVE NO CORRECTIONS.

SENATOR COASH: ANY MESSAGES, REPORTS, OR ANNOUNCEMENTS?

CLERK: YOUR COMMITTEE ON BANKING CHAIRED BY SENATOR SCHEER REPORTS LB157 TO GENERAL FILE. URBAN AFFAIRS, CHAIRED BY SENATOR CRAWFORD, REPORTS LB149, LB168 TO GENERAL FILE. AND RETIREMENT SYSTEMS, CHAIRED BY SENATOR NORDQUIST, REPORTS LB40 TO GENERAL FILE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 321.) [LB157 LB149 LB168 LB40]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. WE WILL NOW PROCEED TO THE FIRST ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR SMITH, AS CHAIR OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, REPORTS ON THE APPOINTMENT OF RHONDA LAHM AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 312.)

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SMITH, AS CHAIR OF THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON THE CONFIRMATION

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HEARING.

SENATOR SMITH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HELD A HEARING ON THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RHONDA LAHM AS DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES ON MONDAY OF THIS WEEK. AND THE COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO ADVANCE THE CONFIRMATION TO THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE. I'M VERY PLEASED ABOUT THIS REAPPOINTMENT. DR. (SIC) LAHM IS SOMEONE MY OFFICE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. AND I'VE COME TO KNOW HER AS A VERY HARDWORKING, COMPETENT, AND TRUSTWORTHY INDIVIDUAL. MS. LAHM HAS OVER THREE DECADES OF STATE GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN NEBRASKA WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, THE STATE PATROL, AND MOST RECENTLY, OF COURSE, THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES. MUCH OF DIRECTOR LAHM'S SERVICE TO OUR STATE HAS BEEN WITH THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL, AND TEN OF THOSE YEARS WERE IN A MANAGEMENT POSITION. SHE ATTAINED THE RANK OF MAJOR PRIOR TO HER RETIREMENT IN 2006. IN FEBRUARY OF 2013, MS. LAHM ASSUMED HER POSITION AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE DMV, AND I THINK MANY OF US CAN ATTEST TO THE FACT THAT SHE'S BEEN DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB SINCE THEN. DURING THE CONFIRMATION HEARING, SENATOR BRASCH BROUGHT UP THE FACT THAT DIRECTOR LAHM HAS A BACKGROUND IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FROM HER TIME WITH THE STATE PATROL. THIS EXPERIENCE WILL BE INVALUABLE AS THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES MOVES INTO THE FUTURE WITH ITS LICENSING AND OPERATIONS. IN ADDITION TO HER 34 YEARS OF STATE SERVICE, DIRECTOR LAHM HAS A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE FROM NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER'S DEGREE IN MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP FROM DOANE COLLEGE. DIRECTOR LAHM IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED TO RETAIN HER POSITION WITH THE DMV. NEBRASKA IS EXTREMELY LUCKY TO HAVE HER AT THE HELM OF THIS IMPORTANT AGENCY. AND, COLLEAGUES, I ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN CONFIRMING HER APPOINTMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SMITH. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE CONFIRMATION REPORT. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF DIRECTOR LAHM. I'VE HAD THE PLEASURE OF GETTING TO KNOW HER, AND THAT SHE ACTUALLY RESIDES IN MY DISTRICT. AND, YES, SHE COMES AS A HIGH-RANKING OFFICIAL FROM OUR STATE PATROL. SHE HAS SERVED IN GOVERNMENT FOR WELL OVER 30 YEARS, AS SENATOR SMITH SAID. AND WHAT HE DIDN'T SAY, THOUGH, IS HER HUSBAND IS ALSO IN LAW

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ENFORCEMENT WITH CASS COUNTY. AND THEY ARE TRULY A FAMILY THAT BELIEVES IN PUBLIC SERVICE. AND THEY'RE A FAMILY THAT NEBRASKA CAN BE PROUD OF. WE CAN GO TO BED AT NIGHT KNOWING THAT WE HAVE GOOD PEOPLE SERVING US LIKE THE LAHMS. AND ONE THING THAT EXCITES ME ABOUT DIRECTOR LAHM IS HER BACKGROUND IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. SHE IS MOVING OUR DMV TOWARD DOING A LOT MORE THINGS ON-LINE, MAKING IT MUCH MORE USER FRIENDLY. AND THAT'S THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT--IT'S HERE TO SERVE. AND SHE'S GOT ONE OF THOSE MENTALITIES THAT SHE GETS THAT AND I THINK THAT'S VERY, VERY IMPORTANT IN GOVERNMENT. I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT POSITIVE INTERACTION WITH HER. I HAVE HAD ONE CONSTITUENT PROBLEM THAT SHE GOT SOLVED IN ONE DAY. AND TO GET A BUREAUCRACY TO MOVE IN ONE DAY, THAT'S SAYING SOMETHING. SO I ENCOURAGE MY FELLOW SENATORS TO SWIFTLY CONFIRM DIRECTOR RHONDA LAHM. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I HAVE A COUPLE OF THINGS TO SAY THIS MORNING. THE FIRST ONE, THERE WAS A LONG ARTICLE WRITTEN BY DAVID HENDEE OF THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD WITH REFERENCE TO THE HUNTING OF MOUNTAIN LIONS. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH THE ARTICLE, BUT HE REFERRED TO ME AS THE LION OF THE LEGISLATURE; NOT THE LIAR, BUT THE LION. WELL, THIS MORNING A SCRIPTURE IS GOING TO BE FULFILLED WHICH SAID THE LION SHALL LIE DOWN WITH THE LAMB/LAHM, FIGURATIVELY. THIS MORNING, THE LION IS GOING TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE LAMB/LAHM. I THINK MS. LAHM OUGHT TO GET THIS POSITION. I'VE WORKED WITH HER ALSO. SHE IS VERY CAPABLE, SHE IS HONORABLE, THOROUGH, AND WILL DO AN EXCELLENT JOB. AND I HAVE A PROBLEM THAT I'M GOING TO BRING TO HER BEFORE THE WEEK IS OVER. THE OTHER THING IS SOMETHING THAT I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU ALL WHO ARE SPIRITUAL MIGHT CAN BREAK THIS DOWN FOR ME WHEN YOU HAVE SOME TIME. I WAS IN MY OFFICE DOING WHAT I DO. AND SOME PEOPLE SAY AN IDLE MIND IS THE DEVIL'S WORKSHOP. ALTHOUGH MY MIND WAS NOT IDLE, I HAD A FEELING THAT BECAUSE OF WHAT WAS COMING, IT WAS COMING FROM THE DEVIL. SO I SAID, OH, DEVIL, ALTHOUGH WE ARE COHORTS, GET AWAY FROM ME RIGHT NOW BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR IT. AND IT SAID--I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS A VOICE LIKE I'M SPEAKING OR JUST POWERFULLY MANIFESTED IN MY BRAIN--IT SAID, I AM NOT THE DEVIL. SO I WAS THINKING IF IT'S THE DEVIL AND HE'S A LIAR, HE WOULD SAY HE'S NOT THE DEVIL. BUT I'LL JUST TAKE WHATEVER THIS IS AT ITS WORD AND GET THE MESSAGE. THIS IS WHAT I WAS TOLD. CHAMBERS, I HAVE A MESSAGE I WANT YOU TO DELIVER TO THOSE PEOPLE UPSTAIRS

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WHO PRAY EVERY DAY. I SAID, VERY WELL, UNKNOWN PERSON OR THING, TELL ME THE MESSAGE AND I'LL DELIVER IT. WHATEVER THIS WAS SAID, TELL THEM THAT EVERYTHING THEY ASK OF ME...I SAID, HOLD ON. BEFORE I GET INTO ALL OF THAT, WHY ARE YOU COMING TO ME WITH THIS MESSAGE IF YOU'RE WHO YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE ME THINK YOU ARE? WHATEVER IT WAS SAID, YOU NEVER ASK ME FOR ANYTHING SO I'M GOING TO ASK SOMETHING OF YOU. AND I SAID, DO YOU DEEM YOURSELF TO BE AMONG THE DOWNTRODDEN? AND THAT'S WHEN IT SAID, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ALL OF THAT. JUST TAKE THE MESSAGE AND DELIVER IT. SO I SAID, FIRE AWAY. IT SAID, TELL THOSE PEOPLE UP THERE WHO PRAY EVERY DAY THAT EVERY SINGLE THING THEY ASK OF ME THEY CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES IF THEY WOULD JUST DO IT. SO YOU TELL THEM IF THEY UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE DONE, DON'T WASTE MY TIME BY ASKING ME TO HAVE THEM DO IT WHEN THE FACT THAT THEY SEE IT NEEDS TO BE DONE MEANS IT'S THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO IT, AND THEY HAVE EVERY MEANS THAT IT TAKES TO DO EVERY ONE OF THESE THINGS THEY ASK OF ME. WILL YOU DELIVER THAT MESSAGE? I SAID, I CERTAINLY WILL. SO WHOEVER, WHATEVER THE MESSAGE GIVER WAS, YOUR MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED BY ME, IT WAS DELIVERED BY ME. BUT IF THOSE WHO PRAY TO YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO YOU, I KNOW THEY'RE NOT GOING TO PAY ANY ATTENTION TO ME. THERE, I'VE DONE MY JOB. AND THEN EVERYTHING BLANKED OUT AFTER THAT.

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. THERE ARE NO OTHER MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK. SENATOR SMITH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON THE CONFIRMATION REPORT. SENATOR SMITH WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION IS THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OFFERED BY THE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: (RECORD VOTE, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 322.) 38 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF THE CONFIRMATION REPORT.

SENATOR COASH: THE REPORT IS ADOPTED. NEXT ITEM, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, GENERAL FILE: SENATOR CAMPBELL OFFERS LB88. (READ TITLE.) INTRODUCED ON JANUARY 8, REFERRED TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, THE BILL WAS ADVANCED TO GENERAL FILE. I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB88. [LB88]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I INTRODUCED LB88 AT THE REQUEST OF THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICIALS. THE BILL IS A FOLLOW-UP TO LAST YEAR'S LB994 WHICH I INTRODUCED ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THAT BILL INCREASED THE STATE'S FEE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF A MARRIAGE LICENSE FROM \$11 TO \$16. AT THE TIME OF LB994'S HEARING, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT COUNTIES MAY ISSUE A CERTIFIED COPY FOR ONLY \$5 AND THAT THE COUNTIES' FEE SHOULD BE THE SAME AS THE STATE'S. THIS SUGGESTION WAS MADE NOT ONLY TO ALIGN THE FEES, BUT TO RECOGNIZE THAT COUNTIES' EXPENSES FOR ISSUING CERTIFIED COPIES HAVE INCREASED. TO COVER THOSE COSTS AND TO ALIGN THE COUNTY WITH THE STATE, LB88 WOULD CHANGE THE COUNTY'S FEE TO \$16. IN ADDITION, LB88 WOULD ALSO INCREASE THE FEE THAT COUNTIES RECEIVE FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES. CURRENTLY THAT FEE IS \$15 AND IT IS SUPPOSED TO COVER THE COSTS OF ALL PROCEDURES REQUIRED FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE WHICH INCLUDES ADMINISTRATING THE OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS, ISSUING THE LICENSE, AND RECORDING THE LICENSE, AND REALLY AN EXTENDED AMOUNT OF WORK IF THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW UP ON THOSE RECORDS. THE COUNTIES' COSTS FOR THOSE PROCEDURES HAVE INCREASED. TO ALLOW COUNTIES TO COVER THOSE COSTS, LB88 WOULD INCREASE THE FEE TO \$50. THE FEE HAS NOT BEEN ADJUSTED SINCE 1995. AND LANCASTER COUNTY DID A PRETTY THOROUGH REVIEW AND ESTIMATED WHAT IT DOES COST AND THEIR COST, ACTUAL COST, IS CLOSER TO \$55. THE FEE INCLUDES THE PROCESS OF ISSUING THE LICENSE, ADMINISTERING THE OATHS, AND REGISTERING THE LICENSE, AND ALL THE FOLLOW-UP WORK THAT MAY BE NECESSARY. THAT PROCESS MAY NOT SOUND AS THOUGH IT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF TIME. HOWEVER, IT WAS POINTED OUT IN THE HEARINGS ON LB88, COUNTIES SPEND QUITE A BIT OF TIME WHEN A LICENSE IS NOT PROPERLY COMPLETED. IN THOSE CASES, QUITE A BIT OF TIME IS REQUIRED TO CONTACT RELEVANT PARTIES TO VERIFY INFORMATION OR TO FILL IN INFORMATION THAT WAS NOT INCLUDED, AND TIME IS ALSO NECESSARY TO CORRECT INFORMATION. SO THE PROCESS MAY TAKE LITTLE TIME WHEN THE COUPLE IS ACTUALLY THERE. OR IT MAY TAKE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME, AND THAT IS WHEN THE COSTS BEGIN TO MOUNT. LANCASTER COUNTY CLERK TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF LB88 AT ITS HEARING IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. AND MARY EICKHOFF, THE RICHARDSON COUNTY CLERK, REGISTER OF DEEDS PROVIDED A LETTER OF SUPPORT. IN THAT LETTER SHE STATED THAT THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION FOR COUNTY CLERKS, REGISTER OF DEEDS, AND ELECTION COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTS AN INCREASE IN THE MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE. AND AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE BILL WAS REQUESTED BY NACO AND THERE WERE NO OPPONENTS AT THE HEARING. LAST NIGHT AS I WAS WALKING OUT OF THE CAPITOL, I WALKED OUT WITH SENATOR McCOLLISTER. AND SENATOR

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McCOLLISTER SAID TO ME, I'M KIND OF INTERESTED IN SOME NUMBERS. COULD YOU GO THROUGH THAT TOMORROW? AND I SAID, I CERTAINLY WOULD. THE FIRST NUMBER THAT WE TOOK TIME TO TAKE A LOOK AT WAS THE VITAL STATISTICS. AND THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 12,000 MARRIAGES IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA IN 2013. IN THE SURROUNDING STATES--AND THIS REALLY GETS AT SENATOR McCOLLISTER'S QUESTION--NEBRASKA'S FEE OF \$15 IS THE LOWEST. IN KANSAS IT COSTS YOU \$85; IN MISSOURI IT'S \$58; IOWA IS AT \$35; SOUTH DAKOTA, \$40; WYOMING, \$25; COLORADO, \$30; AND IN MINNESOTA IT'S A WHOPPING \$115. IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED, HOWEVER, 12 YEARS (SIC) OF PREMARITAL EDUCATION, THEN THE FEE GOES TO \$40. COLLEAGUES, SEVERAL YEARS AGO THE LEGISLATURE WENT THROUGH A PERIOD IN WHICH WE NEEDED TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CUTS. THAT RESOLUTION WAS LR542. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE DID IN LR542 IS THAT WE CUT AID TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. SENATOR NORDQUIST AND I WERE TALKING THIS MORNING AND WE THINK THAT THE LOW ESTIMATE PROBABLY IS AROUND \$48 MILLION. WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE CAN NO LONGER SAY TO COUNTIES--AND THEY ARE AN ARM OF STATE GOVERNMENT--WE WANT YOU TO FILL OUT AND COMPLETE WHAT WE HAVE MANDATED FOR YOU TO DO. WE HAVE TO RECOGNIZE THAT WHEN WE ASK OF THEM AND WE MANDATE THAT THEY PROVIDE THE SERVICE TO CITIZENS THAT WE NEED TO KNOW THAT THEY ARE COVERING THEIR COSTS. BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T COVER THOSE COSTS, IT FALLS BACK ONTO THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS OF EACH COUNTY. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT ON LB88. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT CONCLUDES MY OPENING. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO LB88. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN FOR DISCUSSION. SENATORS WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS KINTNER, CHAMBERS, BLOOMFIELD, AND CRAWFORD. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I AM NOT NECESSARILY OPPOSED TO RAISING THE FEE. CERTAINLY, IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT THE FEES COVER THE COSTS. IT KIND OF SCARES ME THAT IT COSTS A COUNTY \$50 TO ISSUE A MARRIAGE LICENSE. I'M TRYING TO THINK IF AMERICAN EXPRESS WAS DOING IT, I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE COSTING \$50. AND THE FACT THAT WE GIVE GOVERNMENT A PASS AND WE SAY HEY, WHATEVER IT COSTS, IT COSTS. I THINK WE'RE BETTER OFF SAYING IT'S GOING TO COST THIS AND YOU FIGURE A WAY TO MAKE IT WORK. SO I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IF SENATOR CAMPBELL WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CAMPBELL, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB88]

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SENATOR CAMPBELL: CERTAINLY. [LB88]

SENATOR KINTNER: FIRST OF ALL, SENATOR CAMPBELL, THANK YOU. I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT LETTING YOU KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION, BUT THERE'S NO TRAPS HERE. YOU KNOW A LOT MORE ABOUT COUNTY GOVERNMENT THAN I KNOW; YOU'VE BEEN THERE, YOU'VE BEEN A PART OF IT. WALK ME THROUGH WHY THIS WOULD COST A COUNTY GOVERNMENT \$50 TO ISSUE A LICENSE. [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: YOU KNOW, SENATOR KINTNER, THAT'S A GREAT QUESTION. PART OF THE ISSUE IS THAT, YOU KNOW, YOU KIND OF THINK THAT THE COUPLE COMES IN AND THEY FILL OUT A SIMPLE FORM AND THEY TAKE AN OATH AND THAT'S IT. BUT THE COUPLE HAS TO PROVIDE, BY STATUTE, A NUMBER OF PIECES OF INFORMATION: WHERE THE MOTHER WAS BORN AND DATES; AND IF THERE'S A DIVORCE INVOLVED, THE DATES OF THAT DIVORCE. AND WHAT YOU FIND IS THAT ABOUT A THIRD OF THE RECORDS NEED FAR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND THEY HAVE TO GO BACK AND CORRECT IT AND MAKE SURE THAT THE INFORMATION IS CORRECT BECAUSE THIS IS A LEGAL RECORD. AND IT'S REALLY THAT TIME, SENATOR KINTNER, THAT TAKES FAR LONGER THAN JUST ADMINISTERING THE OATH TO THE COUPLE. [LB88]

SENATOR KINTNER: JUST KIND OF WALK ME THROUGH, SENATOR CAMPBELL, HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE? I MEAN, WHAT ARE WE ASKING THEM TO DO? ARE THEY WALKING DOWN THE HALL? IS THERE A BIG BUNCH OF FOLDERS? THEY'RE GOING TO LOOK IN THE FOLDER AND GRAB SOME? ARE THEY DOING AN ON-LINE SEARCH? WHAT ARE THEY DOING? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: I WOULD IMAGINE THAT THEY'RE DOING QUITE A BIT OF...I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY'RE DOING ON-LINE SEARCH. BUT THEY PROBABLY WOULD LOOK AT LEGAL DOCUMENTS WITH REGARD TO DIVORCE DECREES. THEY'D HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS TO TRACK DOWN A MOTHER'S DATE OF BIRTH OR LOCATION OF BIRTH. THERE'S A LOT OF INFORMATION THAT'S ASKED THERE. AND TRULY, THAT IS WHAT ADDS UP. [LB88]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SENATOR CAMPBELL. THAT WAS VERY INFORMATIONAL. YOU KNOW, IF YOU WANT THE RIGHT INFORMATION, YOU'VE GOT TO ASK THE RIGHT PERSON. THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL, THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING MY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER, SENATOR CAMPBELL. MR.

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CLERK, YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT. [LB88]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, GENERAL AFFAIRS WILL MEET IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:30 IN ROOM 2022.

SENATOR COASH: CONTINUING ON DISCUSSION, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I VOTED AGAINST THIS BILL IN COMMITTEE. I'LL VOTE AGAINST IT OUT HERE. AND I THINK A POINT IS REACHED WHERE CERTAIN SERVICES THAT ARE PERFORMED BY THE STATE OUGHT NOT HAVE A FEE ATTACHED. OR IF A FEE AT ALL, A NOMINAL FEE LIKE \$2 OR \$3 JUST TO MEMORIALIZE TO THE PERSON WHO IS INVOLVED IN SEEKING THE SERVICE THAT THIS PARTICULAR SERVICE WAS RENDERED ON THIS DAY. THESE COUNTY PEOPLE--NOW THAT THE GOVERNOR HAS GIVEN THAT MANTRA, PROPERTY TAX, PROPERTY TAX, PROPERTY TAX--EVERYTHING IS RELATED TO PROPERTY TAX. AND I'M NOT GOING TO BUY IT. BUT I WON'T GIVE MY FIGHT ON THIS BILL EXCEPT I'LL SAY THIS: I DON'T BELIEVE ANY COUNTY IS GOING BROKE BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT THEY CHARGE FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES. ON THIS FLOOR, I'VE HEARD PEOPLE--AND I'VE BEEN HERE 40 YEARS, MORE THAN 40--PEOPLE TALK ABOUT FAMILY VALUES. THEY'RE AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE BECAUSE MARRIAGE IS SO SANCTIFIED AND SO HOLY. THEN DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO PROMOTE IT IF THAT'S THE ARGUMENT THAT'S GIVEN WHEN YOU'RE AGAINST GAY MARRIAGE. YOU DON'T PROMOTE A THING BY ADDING A COST TO IT. NO PERSON WHO TESTIFIED ON THIS BILL SAID THAT THERE ARE ESSENTIAL SERVICES THAT THE STATUTES REQUIRES TO PERFORM THAT CANNOT BE PERFORMED OR WHICH MUST BE CURTAILED OR ABRIDGED BECAUSE WE DON'T CHARGE \$50 FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES. YOU SHOULDN'T CHARGE ANYTHING. PEOPLE OUGHT TO BE PAID FOR GETTING MARRIED BASED ON HOW MUCH YOU ALL RUN AROUND HERE TALKING ABOUT YOU LIKE MARRIAGE. THIS IS A BILL THAT OUGHT NOT BE ENACTED BY THIS LEGISLATURE. EVERY TIME THE COUNTIES THINK THEY'VE GOT A HOOK, THEY'RE GOING TO CATCH THE FISH WITH IT IF THEY CAN. AND I'M NOT ONE OF THE FISH. IF YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT PROVIDING MONEY TO PRIME THE PUMP SO THAT CERTAIN MEDICAL SERVICES THAT THE COUNTY WILL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE INDIGENT, I WOULD GO IN MY POCKET AND GIVE YOU SOMETHING. BUT WHEN WE HAVE THINGS THAT ARE DESIGNED TO HELP THE PEOPLE, NO, NO, NO, AND THE GOVERNOR SAID IT. PROPERTY TAXES ARE NOT GOING TO BREAK ANYBODY IF YOU DON'T GIVE THEM THIS INCREASE IN THE MARRIAGE LICENSE FEE. HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK ANYBODY'S PROPERTY TAX IS GOING TO BE REDUCED IF YOU PASS THIS BILL? IF IT WILL NOT BE REDUCED ANYTHING, IT'S NOT INCREASED ANYTHING BECAUSE YOU

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HAVE THE AMOUNT THAT YOU CHARGE NOW. THIS SHOULD BE AND COULD BE A TEMPEST IN A TEAPOT, BUT IT'S NOT GOING BE THAT BECAUSE THE BILL WAS BROUGHT HERE. AND I HAVE AN OBLIGATION, BASED ON THE WAY I VIEW MY JOB, TO STOP ALL BAD LEGISLATION. STEALING THAT...THOSE WORDS FROM THAT PROGRAM THEY USED TO HAVE, ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL, BAD BILLS GREAT AND SMALL. WHY THE SMALL ONES? BECAUSE THE "BIBBLE" SAYS IT IS THE LITTLE FOXES THAT DESTROY THE VINES. THE LITTLE FOXES, NOT THE BEHEMOTH, NOT THE WHALE, NOT THE DINOSAUR, BUT THE LITTLE FOXES. SO I'M PREPARED TO FIGHT THIS BILL. AND I WOULD LIKE TO ASK SENATOR CAMPBELL, FOR WHOM I HAVE GREAT RESPECT, A QUESTION. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. SENATOR CAMPBELL, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: CERTAINLY. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR CAMPBELL, HOW MUCH OF THE LEGISLATURE'S TIME THIS SESSION DID THE COUNTY PEOPLE SAY THAT THEY THINK OUGHT TO BE GIVEN TO ME TO FIGHT THIS BILL? OR DID THAT NOT OCCUR TO THEM BECAUSE ONCE THEY DUMPED IT IN HERE IT'S OUT OF THEIR HANDS AND ON THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE BILL? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THEY DID NOT MAKE ANY COMMENT TO ME ABOUT THAT, SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. NOW I'M GOING TO ASK YOU A QUESTION. HOW MUCH OF THE LEGISLATURE'S TIME ARE YOU PREPARED TO GIVE ME FOR THIS, ALL THAT IT WILL TAKE? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: SENATOR CHAMBERS, I WOULD HOPE THAT WE WOULD NOT SPEND AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME ON IT. I THINK IT'S A GOOD BILL. I THINK IT'S NECESSARY. BUT YOU, OBVIOUSLY, HAVE A DIFFERENT OPINION, SIR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ARE YOU PREPARED TO WITHDRAW IT? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: NOT AT THIS TIME. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT YOU USE THE WORD "TIME." IF ENOUGH TIME IS TAKEN, MIGHT YOU BECOME PREPARED TO WITHDRAW IT? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THEN I'D HAVE TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH YOU. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATORS. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I HAVE ALREADY SEEN THIS YEAR A NUMBER OF BILLS THAT WANT TO INCREASE FEES AND NOT BY A FEW CENTS OR A FEW PERCENTAGE POINTS, BUT LIKE THIS, 300 PERCENT. IT WAS MY HOPE WHEN WE CAME INTO SESSION THIS YEAR THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO POSSIBLY CUT SOME TAXES. MAYBE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THAT, BUT LET'S UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A TAX. IT'S A TAX ON ANYBODY THAT WANTS TO GET MARRIED. THE STATE REQUIRES THAT THEY HAVE A LICENSE. NOW WE'RE SUDDENLY GOING TO MORE THAN TRIPLE THE FEE TO GET THAT LICENSE. IT, TO ME, MAKES ZERO SENSE. AND NOT ONLY THAT, IF YOU WANT TO GET A COPY OF YOUR LICENSE, WE'RE GOING TO TRIPLE THAT FEE, TOO, ANOTHER 300 PERCENT INCREASE. YOU KNOW, HAD THIS BILL COME IN WITH A \$5 INCREASE, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE SAT HERE AND KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT AND SWALLOWED IT. BUT WHEN WE INCREASE FEES THREE TIMES OVER, WE ARE OVERREACHING. WHEN WE ALLOW COUNTIES AND SAY, YEAH, GO AHEAD, CHARGE WHATEVER YOU FEEL LIKE, WE ARE PASSING ON TO THE PEOPLE THAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE REPRESENTING AN EXPENSE THAT THEY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO ENDURE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR CRAWFORD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I STAND IN SUPPORT OF LB88. AND I STAND HERE FOR TWO REASONS: ONE, OUR OFFICE SPONSORED AN INTERIM STUDY ON UNFUNDED MANDATES OVER THE INTERIM. AND THE FEES WERE ONE OF THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD ABOUT SITUATIONS WHERE THE STATE IS IN CHARGE OF AUTHORIZING WHAT COUNTIES CAN DO AND THE STATE PUTS RESTRICTIONS ON HOW MUCH THE COUNTY CAN RAISE IN REVENUES FOR THE TASKS THAT WE ASK THEM TO DO. AND ON THAT FRONT, SENATOR CAMPBELL HAS ALREADY EXPLAINED SOME OF THE NUMBERS FROM LANCASTER COUNTY. BUT JUST FOR THE RECORD, I WILL EXPLAIN SOME OF THOSE NUMBERS THAT CAME TO US DURING AN INTERIM STUDY. IT'S IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS THESE FEES, BECAUSE MANY OF THESE USER

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FEES HAVE NOT BEEN INCREASED FOR 20 YEARS. MARRIAGE FEES, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE LAST RAISED IN 1995. AND I THINK THAT SPEAKS TO THE POINT OF WHY IT'S SUCH A BIG INCREASE. IF THIS WAS SOMETHING WE REGULARLY DID, WE COULD DO IT IN \$5 INCREMENTS, BUT IT'S SOMETHING THAT RARELY GETS RAISED. AND PEOPLE ARE AFRAID TO RAISE IT OR AFRAID TO VOTE ON IT BECAUSE THEY'RE WORRIED IT WILL BE PORTRAYED AS A TAX INCREASE AND SO IT DOESN'T GET ADDRESSED. AND SO IT HASN'T BEEN ADDRESSED SINCE 1995. AS A RESULT, THESE SERVICES COST COUNTIES MORE TO PERFORM THAN COUNTIES CAN CURRENTLY BILL. AND IN LANCASTER COUNTY ALONE, THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ISSUES ON AVERAGE 2,100 MARRIAGE LICENSES A YEAR AND 3,000 CERTIFIED COPIES OF MARRIAGE LICENSES. AND THE AVERAGE COST IS APPROXIMATELY \$116,000, OR A COST APPROXIMATELY OVER \$54 A LICENSE, WHICH IS WHERE THAT COST CAME FROM. CURRENTLY, COUNTIES CAN ONLY CHARGE \$15 PER LICENSE ACCORDING TO STATE STATUTE, WHICH MEANS THAT LANCASTER COUNTY TAXPAYERS SUBSIDIZE THE COST OF PROVIDING THAT MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE TUNE OF APPROXIMATELY OVER \$84,000 A YEAR. WHAT'S MORE, AS SENATOR CAMPBELL POINTED OUT, MANY OF OUR NEIGHBORING STATES CHARGE MORE FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. WE ALSO LEARNED IN OUR INTERIM STUDY THERE'S A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY COUNTIES AND THE STATE CAN CHARGE FOR CERTIFIED COPIES. IF YOU REQUEST A CERTIFIED COPY FROM THE COUNTY CLERK, YOU PAY \$5. IF YOU REQUEST A CERTIFIED COPY FROM THE STATE, HOWEVER, YOU PAY \$15 FOR THAT SAME INFORMATION. THAT'S, I THINK, PART OF WHY THAT'S INCLUDED IN THE BILL AS WELL. FROM MY OWN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SARPY COUNTY BOARD AND SARPY COUNTY CLERK, I'VE LEARNED THAT LAST YEAR SARPY COUNTY ISSUED OVER 1,000 MARRIAGE LICENSES AND ALMOST 500 CERTIFIED MARRIAGE LICENSES. THE \$19,185 THEY RECEIVED IN FEES DOES NOT COME CLOSE TO COVERING THE COST OF ISSUING SUCH A LICENSE. AND IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR KINTNER'S QUESTION OF WHAT COSTS MONEY, SOME OF THE THINGS THAT THEY DISCUSSED WITH ME WAS THE FACT THAT THERE IS, IN ADDITION TO THE TIME SPENT ON ACTUALLY ISSUING THE LICENSE, THE CLERK'S STAFF SPENDS NUMEROUS HOURS ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROCESS AND WORKING TO CORRECT ERRORS IN THE RETURN DOCUMENTS. AND THERE MAY BE MISSING SIGNATURES OF WITNESSES, INCORRECT DATES, OR OTHER ISSUES. AND SO WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT THE COST, THEY'RE INCLUDING STAFF TIME, SUPPLIES, AND POSTAGE TO THE COST OF PERFORMING THIS FUNCTION THAT'S NOT COVERED UNDER CURRENT FEES. AND AGAIN, THE EFFORT HERE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN WE ASK COUNTIES TO DO SOMETHING, WE EITHER PROVIDE THE FUNDING OR ALLOW THEM TO RAISE THE FUNDING TO DO THAT. I THINK SENATOR CHAMBERS RAISES AN INTERESTING QUESTION ABOUT, DO WE VALUE MARRIAGE? AND IF WE VALUE MARRIAGE, ARE WE

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WILLING TO PUT OUR MONEY WHERE OUR MOUTH IS? SO THAT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING BILL TO CONSIDER, WHETHER THE STATE SHOULD SUBSIDIZE THE COST OF THESE MARRIAGE FEES AND SO THAT THE TAXPAYER...SO THAT THE PERSON GETTING MARRIED ONLY HAS TO PAY \$2 OR \$3? I THINK THAT'S AN INTERESTING IDEA, BUT THAT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT BILL. SO CURRENTLY IN CURRENT STATUTE IT IS A USER FEE. AND IT IS THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GETTING MARRIED THAT ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR THAT LICENSURE. IF WE WANTED TO CHANGE THAT TO A STATE SUBSIDY ON MARRIAGE SO THAT WE HAVE A VERY LOW MARRIAGE FEE IN OUR STATE, THAT WOULD BE A DIFFERENT BILL. AND WE'D HAVE TO DISCUSS WHAT STATE FUNDING WOULD BE USED TO HELP SUBSIDIZE THOSE MARRIAGES. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAWFORD. MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE LB88. SENATOR CAMPBELL, AS PRIMARY INTRODUCER, CONSISTENT WITH RULE 7, SECTION 3, YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO TAKE THE MOTION UP AT THIS TIME, SENATOR, OR OTHERWISE THE BILL WOULD BE LAID OVER. [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: MY OPTION WOULD BE TO TAKE IT UP. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I'M SERIOUS ABOUT THIS AS WE WILL SEE AS WE PROCEED. THERE WAS A BILL LAST SESSION, I THINK, DEALING WITH ORANGE FLASHING LIGHTS ON CARS. AND SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED AS LONG AS I WAS WILLING TO DISCUSS IT. AND I SAID, THEN THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THE BILL. BUT WHEN PEOPLE FEEL FREE TO BRING SOMETHING HERE AND THEY'RE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING THEY CAN TO GET IT ACCEPTED, IF I DON'T LIKE IT, EXPECT ME TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO STOP IT. IT WAS BROUGHT HERE WHERE I OPERATE. NOW HAVING BEEN REFERRED TO BY THAT REPORTER AS THE LION--AND I DO HAVE A BEARD ALSO--I'M GOING TO SEE IF THE LION WILL BE BEARDED IN HIS DEN ON THIS BILL. SENATOR CAMPBELL IS NOT BEING ATTACKED BY ME BECAUSE SHE BROUGHT THE BILL. THERE ARE A LOT OF BILLS THAT ARE BROUGHT HERE WHICH MAKE NO SENSE TO ME, BUT I WOULDN'T ATTACK THE SENATOR JUST FOR BRINGING IT. IN FACT, IF I WAS TO GIVE A ONE-WORD DESCRIPTION, SENATOR FRIESEN--WHO, BY THE WAY, WHILE SWELTERING WOULD STILL BE FREEZING/FRIESEN--I WOULD USE A QUOTE FROM ELMER FUDD, ONE WORD

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TO DESCRIBE IT, "SKWOOWY," ELMER FUDD, UNQUOTE. HERE IS SOMETHING ELSE--AND I'M GOING TO APPLY IT TO THIS BILL--THAT HAS BEEN IN MY MIND EVER SINCE I KNEW ABOUT PEOPLE BEING TORTURED TO BE COMPELLED TO SAY SOMETHING. IF THE TORTURE OF WHATEVER VARIETY WILL BE ENGAGED IN LONG ENOUGH TO BREAK THE WILL OF THE STRONGEST MAN...LIKE THAT WOMAN THE COMMODORES SANG ABOUT. THE KIDS WILL KNOW ABOUT THIS. SHE'S A BRICK HOUSE. SHE'S GOT WHAT IT TAKES. SHE KNOWS HOW TO PLEASE. SHE'LL SURE ENOUGH KNOCK A STRONG MAN TO HIS KNEES. SO IF THIS TORTURE IS GOING TO KNOCK EVEN A STRONG MAN TO HIS KNEES, WHY WOULD THOSE TO WHOM THAT STRONG MAN OR WEAK PERSON OR UNFORTUNATE PERSON OWES LOYALTY GOING TO INSIST THAT THIS INDIVIDUAL GO THROUGH TORTURE WHICH EVERYBODY KNOWS IS GOING TO BREAK THAT INDIVIDUAL? JUST LET THE PERSON SAY WHAT IS GOING TO BE SAID ANYWAY WITHOUT ALL OF THAT SUFFERING. BUT HUMAN BEINGS ARE NOT LOGICAL IN THEIR THINKING. AND WHEN WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT INVOLVES PAIN TO SOMEBODY ELSE, THEY DON'T MIND THAT PAIN BEING INFLICTED ON SOMEBODY ELSE BECAUSE IT'S SO EASY TO HURT OTHERS WHEN YOU DON'T FEEL PAIN. WHEN WE ARE GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT OTHER STATES ARE CHARGING ON SOMETHING, NOBODY ON THIS HAS STOOD UP AND TOLD US THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE FLOCKING ACROSS NEBRASKA'S BORDER TO COME HERE AND GET MARRIED HERE BECAUSE THE MARRIAGE LICENSE IS CHEAPER. SO WHAT HAPPENS IN OTHER STATES DOES NOT MOVE ME. AND ON THIS ISSUE, THE STATE IS THE ONE THAT MANDATES THAT A LICENSE BE NECESSARY TO GET MARRIED. THE "BIBBLE" ON WHICH YOU ALWAYS SAY THIS STUFF IS BASED DOESN'T SAY THAT YOU SHOULD CHARGE SOMEBODY TO GET MARRIED. YOU CAN'T SHOW ME IN THE "BIBBLE" WHERE YOU HAVE TO DO THIS. BUT YOU SAY MARRIAGE IS ORDAINED BY THE GOD YOU WORSHIP AND YOU SAY MARRIAGE IS A GOOD THING. I DON'T BELIEVE LIKE YOU ALL BELIEVE. BUT I'VE GOT SOME SENSE AND THINGS DON'T HAVE TO INCONVENIENCE ME BEFORE I CAN ANALYZE IT AND SEE WHAT INCONVENIENCE IT CAUSES TO OTHERS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN WHICH THAT INCONVENIENCE OCCURS. THERE SHOULD BE NO FEE OTHER THAN THIS TOKEN AMOUNT THAT I MENTIONED. IF YOU FEEL THAT YOU WANT TO FOCUS IN THIS PERSON'S MIND OR THE TWO OF THEM IF THEY COME TOGETHER THAT YOU ARE UNDERTAKING SOMETHING WHICH CARRIES LEGAL CONSEQUENCES, THINK ABOUT IT. BUT DON'T LET IT BE A MONEYMAKER. WHY WON'T THE STATE SUBSIDIZE THE SMALL AMOUNT THAT MARRIAGE LICENSES WOULD COST? AND IF ANY OF YOU HAVE GONE TO THESE COUNTY OFFICES, THEY ARE NOT BEEHIVES OF ACTIVITY. YOU DON'T SEE PEOPLE RUNNING AROUND DOING THIS, SHUFFLING PAPERS AND ALL THIS. THERE'S A LOT OF DEAD TIME. THEY ARE NOT ACTUALLY SPENDING ALL THAT TIME ON THIS. THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF DEAD TIME ON THEIR HANDS, WHICH THEY COULD SPEND DOING THE THINGS THAT ARE REQUIRED. AND I'M

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NOT SAYING GIVE THEM MAKE-WORK; BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BE SUCKERED INTO THINKING THAT THESE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ARE BUSY ALL THE TIME AND THAT THEY SET ASIDE A CERTAIN SPECIFIC AMOUNT OF QUANTIFIABLE TIME GIVEN TO DEALING WITH MARRIAGE LICENSES AND THEY NOTATE EVERYTHING LIKE A LAWYER DOES WHEN HE OR SHE IS GOING TO BILL. THAT DOES NOT HAPPEN. THAT IS NOT REALISTIC AND IT'S NOT AN HONEST PORTRAYAL OF WHAT HAPPENS. BUT WHEN THE COUNTY OR ANYBODY ELSE IS TRYING TO GET SOMEBODY ELSE TO GIVE THEM MONEY, THEY'RE GOING TO PUMP THE PRICE UP AS HIGH AS THEY CAN, AS MUCH AS THEY CAN. AND THEY SAY THIS WILL SLIDE BY UNDER THE RADAR BECAUSE NOBODY CARES AND WE'LL HAVE THAT MONEY. WELL, I CARE. WHAT I DON'T CARE IS WHETHER PEOPLE GET MARRIED OR NOT. THE THRILL OF MARRIAGE, THE AGONY OF DIVORCE. BUT IT WORKS OUT THE OTHER WAY. PEOPLE GO THROUGH A LOT OF AGONY UNTIL THEY FINALLY DECIDE TO TIE THE KNOT AND YOU DON'T WANT IT TO BE A HANGMAN'S KNOT. AND THEY ARE DELIRIOUSLY HAPPY WHEN DIVORCE IS GRANTED. SO THERE ARE REALITIES THAT ARE LOST IN THE FOGS AND MISTS OF MYTHOLOGY AND FAIRY TALE STORIES. IF YOU WANT TO HAVE SOME MEANS TO ESTABLISH THAT PEOPLE ARE LEGALLY MARRIED BECAUSE THERE ARE CERTAIN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS THAT ACCRUE AS A RESULT OF BEING IN THAT STATUS, THEN LET PEOPLE JUST COME DOWN AND SIGN THESE PAPERS AND NOTARIZE THEM AND THAT'S IT. DON'T CHARGE ANYTHING. AND THE COUNTY CAN MAKE A COPY AND PUT IT IN WHATEVER FILE THEY HAVE, SEND ONE TO THE STATE, AND THEN IF ANYBODY WANTS A COPY, CHARGE THEM THE COST OF THE PAPER AND 50 CENTS. I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT BECAUSE THESE COUNTIES PUT ALL OF THIS MONEY ON THESE THINGS THAT OUGHT TO BE A SERVICE RENDERED BY THE STATE THAT I WILL GO ALONG WITH IT. YOU HAVE HIGH COSTS ON MARRIAGE LICENSES IN OTHER STATES BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANYBODY LIKE ME WHO WILL SAY, WAIT A MINUTE, STOP. I'M THE SEASHORE, YOU ARE THE OCEAN, AND THE SEASHORE IS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM BEING WASHED AWAY BY THE OCEAN. SO IF ALL OF YOUR THUNDERING, CRASHING WAVES, YOUR ABILITY TO SINK SHIPS, WHEN YOU COME TO THIS SEASHORE, YOU WILL COME THIS FAR AND NO FURTHER. AND THAT'S MY PHILOSOPHY, AND I WILL CARRY IT THROUGH. I'M GOING TO BE HERE 90 DAYS ANYWAY. IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE TO ME WHAT I SPEND THOSE 90 DAYS DOING. DOES IT MEAN THAT CERTAIN ISSUES THAT I'M TRYING TO GET ENACTED INTO LAW MAY GO BY THE WAYSIDE? CERTAINLY. WE ALL HAVE SKIN IN THIS GAME. AND I AM PREPARED TO ABIDE THE CONSEQUENCES OF EVERYTHING THAT I DO. SO IF YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH THE HOURS, THEN THAT'S WHAT WE WILL DO. AND I'M GOING TO SEE HOW MANY YOU ALL ARE GOING TO GO THROUGH BEFORE YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES. AND YOU KNOW HOW I'M GOING TO MAKE MY AMENDMENTS WITHOUT TAXING MYSELF? I'M GOING TO START REDUCING

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THAT AMOUNT... [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR PRESIDING

SENATOR GLOOR: One minute. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...FROM \$50 TO \$49.50, THAT'S ONE AMENDMENT; THE NEXT AMENDMENT, \$49, THAT'S AN AMENDMENT; \$49, \$48.50, \$48.50, DO I HEAR \$48.50; \$48.50; THEN \$48. AND I WILL CARRY THROUGH ON IT. AND I'VE BECOME CONVINCED THAT MARRIAGE MAY HAVE SOME VALUE. AND BECAUSE I'M CONVINCED OF THAT, I'M GOING TO FIGHT THIS BILL AND EITHER I'M GOING TO LOSE OR THE LEGISLATURE IS GOING TO LOSE. AND UNLESS I DIE, I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE ON THIS ONE BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU WANT TO SPEND EIGHT HOURS ON IT. BUT IF WE SPEND EIGHT HOURS ON THIS, WE DON'T GET TO ANYTHING ELSE DURING THAT PERIOD OF TIME. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATORS WISHING TO BE RECOGNIZED: McCOLLISTER, SCHUMACHER, CHAMBERS, JOHNSON, BRASCH, AND OTHERS. SENATOR McCOLLISTER, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB88. AND I'D LIKE TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO SENATOR CAMPBELL FOR PROVIDING THE INFORMATION THAT I ASKED FOR YESTERDAY. I BELIEVE USER FEES ARE A GOOD WAY FOR US TO HANDLE SOME OF THE EXPENSES THAT WE HAVE IN GOVERNMENT. AND A MARRIAGE FEE IS A REASONABLE AND PROPER EXPENSE. ALL STATES DO THIS KIND OF THING. AND IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE EXPENSE PROPOSED RATE THAT NEBRASKA WOULD LIKE TO CHARGE IS REASONABLE AND PROPER. SO I WOULD HOPE THAT WE'D MOVE FORWARD ON THAT. SECONDLY, I'LL BE BACK BEFORE THIS BODY WITH A LICENSE PLATE FEE WHERE I'D LIKE TO REDUCE SOME FEES. SO HERE'S A GOOD WAY FOR US TO INCREASE THE REVENUE THAT COUNTIES HAVE; AND I THINK THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHER WAYS, INCLUDING MY PROPOSED BILL THAT YOU WILL SEE, THAT WILL REDUCE SOME OF THEIR INCOME. SO I WOULD URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF LB88. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOLLISTER. SENATOR CAMPBELL, MY APOLOGIES. PROCEDURALLY YOU ARE ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE MOTION TO IPP. [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I WON'T BE

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LONG. OBVIOUSLY, I DO NOT SUPPORT THE MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE LB88. I WOULD LIKE TO INDICATE TO YOU THAT TIME IS SPENT ON MARRIAGE LICENSES AND VERIFYING THE INFORMATION. AND ONE WOULD THINK THAT PEOPLE WOULD PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION WHEN THEY COME TO FILL OUT A FORM SUCH AS THIS. BUT THEY DO NOT. AND IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS INFORMATION IS ACCURATE BECAUSE THIS BECOMES A DOCUMENT THAT PEOPLE CAN REFER TO IN GETTING A PASSPORT, IN GETTING BENEFITS. I KNOW THAT WHEN MY HUSBAND WAS IN THE SERVICE, I HAD TO PROVIDE A MARRIAGE LICENSE. I'D SHOW THAT IN TERMS OF GETTING BENEFITS WHEN HE WAS OVERSEAS IN VIETNAM. SO THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE LIGHTLY TAKEN AND THE FACTS NEED TO BE ACCURATE; NOT ALMOST ACCURATE, BUT ACCURATE. AND THAT IS THE TIME THAT TAKES...THAT THE COUNTIES ARE TAKING TO DO THIS BUSINESS. I CERTAINLY CAN APPRECIATE PEOPLE'S COMMENTS WITH REGARD TO MARRIAGE AND WHAT THE STATE SHOULD DO WITH REGARD TO THE COST OF THIS. BUT FRANKLY, WE HAVE ASKED THE COUNTIES TO DO THIS. AND WE HAVE BEEN DOING MARRIAGE LICENSES...IN FACT, DOUGLAS COUNTY INDICATED THAT THEIR RECORDS GO BACK TO 1856. SO WE HAVE BEEN DOING AND ASKING OF COUNTIES TO DO THIS FOR A VERY LONG TIME AND TO MAKE SURE IT'S ACCURATE, THAT IT IS A DOCUMENT THAT PEOPLE CAN REFER TO AND UTILIZE FOR OTHER INFORMATION THAT NEEDS TO BE GIVEN. WE SHOULD NOT BE TAKING IT LIGHTLY THAT WE ARE ASKING THEM TO DO THIS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. I OFTEN WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE IN THIS BODY WITH SOME INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY. MY INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY ONLY GOES BACK FOUR YEARS. THE FIRST YEAR DOWN HERE WE WERE SO HARD UP WE WERE ALMOST GETTING READY TO BOUNCE CHECKS. WE HAD BLED DOWN THE RESERVE AND WE HAD TO FIND MONEY OUT OF EVERY...BLOOD OUT OF EVERY TURNIP WE COULD DREAM UP. WE WERE EVEN LOOKING AT TAKING MONEY FROM A VETERANS' FUND DESIGNATED TOWARD A CEMETERY IN WESTERN NEBRASKA AND RAIDING THAT FUND. ONE OF THE THINGS WE DID DO, BECAUSE WE WERE SO HARD UP, IS WE TOOK AWAY CITY AND COUNTY AID. WE SAVED ABOUT \$40 MILLION TO THE STATE BUDGET BY DOING THAT. NEXT YEAR, WE WERE SO LOADED THAT WE COMMITTED TO A \$60 MILLION A YEAR INCOME TAX DECREASE. IN THE PROCESS, JUST IN THAT SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, THE PROPERTY TAXPAYERS BEGAN TO SQUEAL. THE COUNTY OFFICIALS BEGAN TO FEEL THAT THEY NEEDED ALTERNATE SOURCES OF REVENUE. WE CHANGED THE FEE FOR REGISTERING A DEED

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FROM \$5 TO \$10. WE'RE NOW LOOKING AT \$50 FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. AND YOU JUST GOT TO SAY, SOME OF THIS STUFF IS SO DISJOINTED IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. FIFTY DOLLARS, ADMITTEDLY, IS NOT VERY MUCH MONEY FOR A MARRIAGE LICENSE. I RECENTLY HAD TO PAY FOR A COUPLE OF WEDDINGS. IT WAS \$16 FOR A PEONY TO PUT ON THE TABLES FOR THE FLOWER POT. BUT WOULD IT HAVE BEEN A SIMILAR SITUATION IF YOU HAD TWO STRUGGLING PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO GET MARRIED? MAYBE THE FEE SHOULD BE \$100 IN A NORMAL SITUATION BUT WAIVED IN THE SITUATION WHERE THERE'S MINOR KIDS INVOLVED. DON'T WE WANT TO FACILITATE MARRIAGE WHERE THERE'S MINOR KIDS INVOLVED? ISN'T IT A GREAT COUNTY SAVING TO HAVE A PROBABILITY OF THOSE KIDS HAVING A MORE STABLE ENVIRONMENT SO THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO PLOW SO MUCH MONEY INTO PRESCHOOL EDUCATION OR INTO JUVENILE DELINQUENCY? GOSH, I WOULD THINK THAT WE'D WANT TO ENCOURAGE MARRIAGE, PARTICULARLY WHERE THERE'S MINOR KIDS INVOLVED. AND THAT ISN'T CONTEMPLATED BY THIS PARTICULAR PROPOSAL YET. AND MAYBE A WAY TO RESOLVE THIS IS TO UP THE FEE A LITTLE BIT, BUT WAIVE IT IN CASES WHERE THERE'S MINOR CHILDREN INVOLVED. I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT PREPARING A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AMOUNTS TO MUCH TIME, IF ANY, IN THE COURTHOUSE. THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME THERE. THEY MAY NOT GET THE MOST PROMPT SERVICE IF THERE'S SOME COMPLICATION AND THEY'RE FIBBING ABOUT THEIR IDENTITY, BUT I WOULD GUESS THAT'S A FAIRLY RARE CASE. I DON'T THINK I'M GOING TO SUPPORT THE MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE BECAUSE MAYBE THERE'S AN AMENDMENT THAT SHOULD BE PUT IN THAT WAIVES THE FEE IN THE CASE OF A MINOR CHILD BEING INVOLVED. COUNTY ATTORNEYS, IF THERE'S A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE, HAVE AN EASIER TIME PROVING PATERNITY, GETTING CHILD SUPPORT OUT OF THE FATHER IF THERE'S A BREAKUP LATER AND THE FOLKS DON'T GET ALONG. I'M INCLINED TO THINK MAYBE AN AMENDMENT IS A BETTER WAY TO RESOLVE THIS. BUT INCREASING THE FEE FOR SOMETHING THAT WE WANT PEOPLE TO DO IS NOT A MAGIC ANSWER HERE. AND IN THE BIG PICTURE, WE PROBABLY SHOULD GO BACK AND SAY INSTEAD OF ENCOURAGING THE COUNTIES TO COME HERE WITH THEIR HANDS OUT AND TRYING TO DREAM UP EVERY CONCOCTION THEY CAN FOR ADDITIONAL FEES, WE SHOULD LOOK AT RESTORING SOME OF THAT CITY AND COUNTY AID. THANK YOU. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHO IS GOING TO SPEAK FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT MARRIED BUT MAY GET MARRIED? THEY DON'T CONSTITUTE A CONSTITUENCY OF ANYBODY. THEY'RE JUST OUT THERE FOR THE PLUCKING AND THE TAKING. I'M SURPRISED

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WHOM I GAVE CREDIT FOR BEING A PHILOSOPHER THE OTHER DAY, HAS NOT THOUGHT DEEPLY ON THIS QUESTION. NOBODY IS SPEAKING FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY THIS FEE. NOT ONE...WELL, ONE. FORGET ME, BECAUSE YOU DON'T REGARD ME ANYWAY AS A PERSON--AN IRRITANT, MAYBE, AN ANNOYANCE, BUT NOT AS A PERSON, NOT AS A HUMAN BEING, BUT AS "THE OTHER"; THE MARGINALIZED ONE WHO REPRESENTS THE MARGINALIZED CREATURES. BUT I'VE GOT A VOICE AND I'M GOING TO RAISE IT. AND WHEN YOU ALL BRING THIS NONSENSE LEGISLATION, I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU EARN YOUR MONEY AS I EARN MINE. AND I EARN MINE, EVERY PENNY OF IT. IF MARRIAGE IS GOOD, AND YOU SAY THE "BIBBLE" SAID IT, THE "BIBBLE" SAYS DON'T GET DIVORCED, BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS WHO GET DIVORCED. THEN WHY DON'T YOU RAISE THE COST OF GETTING A DIVORCE? THEN YOU'D HAVE SOME POWERFUL PEOPLE COMING IN HERE AND SAYING, YOU BETTER GET BACK DOWN TO THAT LEGISLATURE WHERE YOU BELONG. YOU'RE OF THE LOWER ORDERS AND WE TELL YOU WHAT TO DO. YOU CAN GO AFTER THOSE OTHER PEOPLE, BUT DON'T MESS WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T BE MESSING. AND NOW YOU'RE MESSING WITH THE BIG BOYS AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE IT. AND THAT'S WHY YOU SEE THIS LEGISLATURE AND THESE COUNTY BOARDS GOING AFTER THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO CREDIBILITY IN THE MINDS OF OTHER POLITICIANS. WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT TAXPAYERS, THE SAME PEOPLE PAY SOME OF ALL OF THESE TAXES. THERE'S NOT A COLLECTION OF PEOPLE AND THEY'RE LABELED TAXPAYERS AND THEY HAVE SIX FINGERS ON ONE HAND AND FOUR ON THE OTHER. SOMEBODY WHO PAYS INCOME TAX HAS ONE TOE AND THREE ANKLES. IT'S THE SAME PERSON. BUT YOU ALL CATEGORIZE THEM BECAUSE YOU'RE DOING THE JOB OF SUCKERING THE PUBLIC. I SEE LIFE AS A SEAMLESS WEB, A CONTINUUM, AND VARIOUS THINGS HAPPEN ALONG THAT CONTINUUM. AND I SEE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT COMPARTMENTALIZED, PIGEONHOLED, AND BROKEN UP AS THEY OFTEN ARE DONE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CATEGORIZING AND CLASSIFYING THEM FOR CERTAIN SPECIFIC PURPOSES. AND THEY'RE NEVER REGARDED IN THEIR TOTALITY AS A HUMAN BEING, BUT I SEE THEM IN NO OTHER WAY. AND WHETHER SOMEBODY IS UNJUSTIFIABLY GOING TO BE PRICKED WITH A PIN OR STABBED WITH A DAGGER, THE WORD IS "UNJUSTIFY." I WILL TRY TO STOP BOTH OF THEM. AND WHEN SOMEBODY ASKS ME, WOULD YOU RATHER THEY BE GIVEN A PIN PRICK OR A DAGGER STAB? I'D SAY, I RATHER THEY GET NEITHER. WITH ME, IT'S NOT AN EITHER/OR SITUATION; IT'S A NEITHER/NOR. BUT SEE, I MEAN WHAT I SAY, I BELIEVE WHAT I PROFESS TO BELIEVE, AND I ACT ON IT. I DON'T COME UP HERE AND MOUTH WORTHLESS PRAYERS THAT I DON'T INTEND TO ACT ON. I DON'T TALK ABOUT PROTECTING ZYGOTES,...

[LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...EMBRYOS, AND FETUSES, THEN AS SOON AS A CHILD PASSES THROUGH THE BIRTH CANAL AND COMES INTO THE WORLD AND THERE'S NO DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AMONG ANYBODY ABOUT THIS CHILD WHICH WAS BORN BEING A FULL-FLEDGED HUMAN BEING. AND THOSE ARE THE ONES YOU ALL TARGET TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GET THE MEDICAL CARE THEY NEED, DON'T GET A DECENT EDUCATION, ARE NOT PREPARED FOR JOBS. BUT YOU BUILD MORE PLACES TO INCARCERATE THEM, MORE WAYS TO DEGRADE THEM, MORE WAYS TO ATTACK THEM AND TELL THEM THEY'RE NOT WORTH ANYTHING. AND THEY ACCEPT WHAT YOU SAY. AND WHEN THEY ACT THE WAY THEY SHOULD BASED ON WHAT YOU TOLD THEM THEY ARE, THEN YOU WANT TO CONDEMN THEM. THEY ARE WHAT YOU MADE THEM. THAT'S WHY I DEAL WITH ALL OF THESE ISSUES. AND YOU'RE GOING TO PAY. YOU'RE GOING TO PAY ME IN TIME FOR THIS BILL. AND I'M GOING TO TAKE MY TIME AND I WILL NOT BE BARGAINED WITH AND I WILL NOT BE NEGOTIATED WITH. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT...I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT TWO SIDES, BUT THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO GROUPS INVOLVED IN THIS SITUATION. ONE IS THE COUNTY MANDATED BY THE STATE. YOU OUGHT TO HAVE A MARRIAGE LICENSE IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET MARRIED. AND IS IT UNMANDATED...UNDERFUNDED, AS THE STUDY MIGHT INDICATE? YOU KNOW THAT'S A POSSIBILITY. THEN YOU'VE GOT THE SIDE OF THE COUPLE THAT'S GETTING MARRIED. AND WHEN I SAY COUPLE, I DEFINITELY MEAN MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN; THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I WANTED TO STRESS. SENATOR SCHUMACHER AND I HAD A SIDEBAR CONVERSATION AND HE GOT HIS LIGHT ON BEFORE I DID. I AGREE WITH A LOT OF THE THINGS HE SAID. MY MAIN POINT IS, WE NEED TO FIGURE OUT WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO BE LEGALLY MARRIED, ESPECIALLY IF A FAMILY IS INVOLVED OR DEFINITELY IF A FAMILY IS GOING TO BE INVOLVED. WE NEED TO SHIFT A LITTLE BIT IN SOME OF OUR THINKING. WE'RE PROBABLY GOING TO SPEND MORE TIME ON THIS BILL THAN WE...I REMEMBER A BILL A YEAR AGO WE GOT STALLED ON ALL DAY. IT'S NOT QUITE THE SAME SUBJECT, BUT WE'RE GOING TO SPEND MORE TIME ON THIS THAN WE SHOULD, I BELIEVE. WE NEED TO COME TO A RESOLUTION. MAYBE IT'S HALFWAY BETWEEN ON THIS FEE. I THINK THE COUNTIES MAYBE ARE A LITTLE BIT SHORT, BUT IT'S AN OBLIGATION THAT WE MANDATE, AND I DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO BREAK THE COUNTY IF WE BACK THAT OFF A LITTLE BIT. THAT'S MY COMMENTS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

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SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR BRASCH. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS ALL. I STAND SUPPORTING THAT WE NEED TO TALK AS MUCH AS WE NEED TO ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC OF MARRIAGE AND THAT WE ARE PERHAPS DISPROPORTIONATELY RAISING A FEE. THAT IS QUITE A STEEP CLIMB. I BELIEVE GREAT ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, SENATOR JOHNSON, AND ALSO SENATOR CHAMBERS. VERY RESPECTFULLY, EVERYONE HAD VALID POINTS TO BE MADE. THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE IS VERY IMPORTANT. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE RAISING OF CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY. TOMORROW, I WILL BE GOING BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO TALK ABOUT A BILL OF MINE, LB338, WHERE WE HAVE GROUPS OF LITTLE KIDS THAT FOR SOME REASON OR ANOTHER, MOM AND DAD DIDN'T QUITE FIGURE IT OUT. AND WE HAVE A GROUP OF THE MARRIED MOM AND DAD. BUT WHAT CONCERNS ME, TWICE THE SIZE OF THAT GROUP THAT DIDN'T WORK IT OUT ARE THE UNMARRIED MOMS AND DADS. THAT WILL BE TALKED ABOUT TOMORROW IN COMMITTEE. SO ARE WE ENCOURAGING YOUNG PEOPLE TO NOT BE THE MARRIED MOMS AND DADS, THAT THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE IS NOT IMPORTANT IN THE RAISING OF A FAMILY, OF A LIVELIHOOD, OF MOVING FORWARD? PEOPLE OF ALL AGES GET MARRIED, BUT A MAJORITY OF THEM ARE YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUNG PEOPLE JUST STARTING OUT IN LIFE. AND YES, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WHEN THERE IS A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE, FOR SOME IT IS A VERY ELABORATE, EXPENSIVE ONE WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE EVEN KNOWN TO TAKE OUT LOANS. IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE. THERE IS THE CASE WHERE THE YOUNG COUPLE MANAGES TO FIND THE \$15 AND FIND THEIR WAY TO THE COURTHOUSE TO DO THE RESPECTABLE AND HONORABLE COMMITMENT OF A LIFETIME, OR THEIR HOPE OF THAT. WE ALSO JUST HAD A STATE PETITION ACROSS THE STATE SAYING THAT A LIVING WAGE NEEDS TO BE MADE. AND SO WHAT DID WE DO? AND HERE IT GOES. WE'RE GOING TAKE FROM THAT WAGE OF THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE, PERHAPS, OF ANY AGE AND GO FROM \$15 TO \$50. HOW DOES THAT HELP? I ASK YOU THAT QUESTION. AND SO HERE IT GOES, YOU GIVE A LITTLE AND THEN YOU TAKE A LOT. I AM CONCERNED, NOT THAT OUR COUNTIES AREN'T LOOKING FOR RESOURCES, FOR INCOME, FOR INNOVATION. BUT THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE, I BELIEVE, IS SACRED. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD RESPECT THAT AND THAT'S NOT AN INSTITUTION THAT WE HEAVILY TAX. A FEE IS A TAX INCREASE. CALL IT WHAT YOU MAY. BUT I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE COUNTIES ARE SAYING. BUT I BELIEVE THAT'S ONE AREA THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE AN INCREASE IN FEES. AGAIN, SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT. I HIGHLY RESPECT EVERYTHING THAT SENATOR CAMPBELL DOES FOR ALL PEOPLE AND HER THOUGHTFULNESS. BUT I THINK THAT WE NEED TO BE THOUGHTFUL IN THIS

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PARTICULAR SITUATION AND THINK LONG AND HARD BEFORE WE MAKE AN INCREASED BURDEN ON THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES AND MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88 LB338]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF SENATOR CHAMBERS' MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. AGAIN, A 300 PERCENT INCREASE IS NOT TENABLE IN MY MIND. I HAVE NEVER WALKED INTO THE COURTHOUSE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY, SARPY COUNTY, LANCASTER COUNTY TO SEE HOW BUSY THEY ARE. BUT I KNOW IN OUR SMALL COUNTY COURTHOUSES THEY DON'T APPEAR TO BE OVERBURDENED WHEN YOU WALK IN THERE. THEY DRAW THEIR SALARY WHETHER THEY ARE BUSY PREPARING DOCUMENTS OR WHETHER THEY'RE THERE BECAUSE THEY'RE MERELY REQUIRED TO BE THERE THAT DAY WITHOUT ANY GREAT AMOUNT OF WORK TO DO. I DON'T SEE INCREASING THIS FEE TO THAT DEGREE. I AGREE THAT INCREASING ANY FEE ON MARRIAGE IS PROBABLY NOT A GOOD IDEA. BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT ONE I'M CONCERNED WITH. WE'RE LOOKING AT A 300 PERCENT INCREASE ALSO IN MAKING A COPY, A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE MARRIAGE LICENSE. IF WE GIVE THE COUNTIES PERMISSION TO DO THAT, WHAT'S THE NEXT ONE THEY'RE COMING AFTER? WHAT OTHER COPY FEE ARE THEY GOING TO WANT TO RAISE BY 300 PERCENT? THIS IS AN OPENING VOLLEY. THIS IS NOT THE FINAL BATTLE ON FEE INCREASES. LET US BE VERY CAREFUL IN WHAT WE CHARGE OUR CITIZENS TO GET A PIECE OF PAPER HANDED TO THEM ACROSS A DESK IN THEIR COUNTY COURTHOUSE. A 300 PERCENT INCREASE ON ANY FEE TO ME IS OBSCENE. THANK YOU. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE HAD SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH SENATOR CAMPBELL OFF MIKE, AND I'M GOING TO OFFER AN AMENDMENT THAT WILL GIVE IT A RANGE OF \$30 TO \$50. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE TRUE COST IS. I'M CONVINCED IT COSTS A LOT MORE THAN \$15 TO DO THIS. I'M NOT SURE IT COSTS \$50, BUT I'M WILLING TO LET THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DECIDE IT AND STAND BEFORE THE VOTERS AND JUSTIFY TO THE VOTERS WHY THEY THINK IT SHOULD BE \$30, \$35, \$40, \$45, OR AS HIGH AS \$50. SO WHAT MY AMENDMENT THAT'S BEING DRAFTED RIGHT NOW WILL DO IS, IT WILL ALLOW COUNTIES TO RAISE IT TO BETWEEN \$30 AND \$50. THEY CAN PICK WHERE THEY THINK IT SHOULD BE. IF THEY'RE SMART, I THINK THEY'RE GOING TO BE CLOSER TO \$30. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR TRUE COSTS ARE. I'M NOT SURE THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT THEIR TRUE COSTS ARE

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ALL THE TIME. BUT IF THEY DO, WE'LL GIVE THEM THAT FLEXIBILITY. SHE SIGNED OFF ON IT AND WHEN IT GETS DOWN HERE, I WILL INTRODUCE THAT. AND OF COURSE WE'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THE INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT HERE. BUT I CERTAINLY THINK THAT SOME FEE INCREASE IS WARRANTED. THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION IS WHAT? SO WE'LL GIVE THEM A RANGE AND LET THEM PUT THEIR NAME ON IT, STAND BY IT, AND LET THEM RUN FOR REELECTION ON IT. SO WHEN IT COMES DOWN, WE CAN TALK ABOUT THAT AFTER WE DEAL WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS' MOTION HERE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SENATOR KINTNER MEANS WELL, BUT HE IS SO NAIVE. HE SAID THEY'RE GOING TO DISCUSS HIS AMENDMENT AFTER WE GET THROUGH WITH MY INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT MOTION. WELL, NO, YOU'RE NOT. FIRST OF ALL, IF I LOSE IT, I CAN RECONSIDER IT. AND THEN THERE ARE PRIORITY MOTIONS THAT I CAN OFFER AND SHALL OFFER THAT WILL KEEP US FROM GETTING TO ANYBODY'S AMENDMENT. THIS WILL BE A LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR PEOPLE. SO THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE NEW AND WONDER HOW IN THE WORLD I COULD STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND SAY I'LL TAKE US TO MIDNIGHT ON A BILL...WELL, I KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW, BUT I WANT YOU TO LEARN IT. AND ONE THING, I SEE BROTHER BAKER LOOKING AT ME. I TOLD HIM I REMEMBER HIS NAME BECAUSE A GUY NAMED GERRY RAFFERTY PLAYED A SONG CALLED "BAKER STREET." I REALLY LIKE IT, ESPECIALLY THE INSTRUMENTALS ON IT. BUT BROTHER BAKER WILL NOW REGARD BILLS MORE CAREFULLY BECAUSE HE CARRIED A BILL AND IT WAS NOT PROPERLY REPRESENTED TO HIM WHAT THE BILL WOULD DO. HE WAS INTERESTED IN GREATER ACCESS BY THE PUBLIC TO COURT DOCUMENTS, WHICH I'M IN FAVOR OF TOO. BUT SEE, I KNOW HOW TO READ LEGISLATION AND THEY WOULDN'T BRING THEIR KIND OF BILL TO ME. WHAT IT WAS GOING TO DO WAS RESTRICT WHAT YOU COULD DO. YOU COULD NOT GET THE PAPER DOCUMENT, YOU COULD NOT MAKE COPIES, SO IT WAS GOING TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR THE COUNTIES, LESS WORK FOR THEM TO DO, AND MAKE INFORMATION MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PUBLIC TO RECEIVE. AND THOSE ARE THE ONES YOU ALL ARE CARRYING WATER FOR, YOU'RE SO SORRY FOR THEM. COUNTIES ARE CREATURES OF THE STATE. IF YOU THINK THERE'S TOO MUCH WORK FOR THE COUNTY TO HANDLE MARRIAGES, LET IT BECOME A STATE FUNCTION. TAKE IT AWAY FROM THE COUNTIES. ASK THEM, DO THEY WANT TO GIVE IT UP? DO THEY WANT TO STOP DOING IT? COUNTIES DON'T EXIST AS FREESTANDING ENTITIES LIKE THE STATE. THE STATE IS ALLOWED TO DELEGATE CERTAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE COUNTIES, TO

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THE CITIES. THE STATE IS ALL IN THIS STATE. THE STATE HAS PARAMOUNTCY. AND YOU CAN HAVE THESE COUNTY PEOPLE, THESE CITY PEOPLE YACKETY-YAKKING AND YAMMERING, BUT THEY'RE NOT ON A PAR WITH THE STATE. AND I WILL NEVER ALLOW THEM TO GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE. THEY DON'T DICTATE TO THE STATE. THEY WOULD IF I WERE NOT HERE BECAUSE THEY WOULD COME TO YOU ALL WITH A PITIFUL MOUTH AND TELL YOU--WE DON'T LIKE DOING WHAT YOU TOLD US TO DO. GIVE US SOME MORE MONEY. OR WHAT? GIVE YOU MORE MONEY OR WHAT? IF THE STATE SAYS YOU DO IT, YOU WILL DO IT AND THEY WILL. AND WE'RE GOING TO STAY ON THIS BILL BECAUSE NOW IT'S BECOME SOMETHING OTHER THAN JUST A BILL. IT HAS BECOME A MATTER OF MY INTEGRITY AS A MEMBER OF THIS BODY. BUT I THINK THE ISSUE JUSTIFIES IT. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR CAMPBELL, AGAIN FOR WHOM I HAVE GREAT RESPECT, A QUESTION. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: SENATOR CAMPBELL, WOULD YOU YIELD? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: CERTAINLY. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU MENTIONED THAT THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO VERIFY INFORMATION. IS THAT CORRECT? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: YES, SIR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T GIVE CORRECT INFORMATION. IS THAT ALSO CORRECT? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: YES, I DID SAY THAT. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF IT'S DETERMINED THAT SOMEBODY GAVE FALSE INFORMATION, ARE THEY PROSECUTED BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY? [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: NO, THEY ARE NOT. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OKAY. THAT'S ALL I WILL ASK YOU AT THIS POINT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHY WON'T YOU TAX THE CHURCHES? I WANT TO TAX THEM. THEY GET BENEFITS FOR WHICH THEY DON'T PAY. WHAT ABOUT FIXING THE STREETS IN FRONT OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS, PLOWING THE SNOW OUT OF THE STREETS... [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...IN FRONT OF THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS, PROVIDING STREET LIGHTS, POLICE PROTECTION? AND THEY DON'T PAY ONE THIN DIME.

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WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE IS THAT FOR THE CHILDREN OF GOD TO THE GODLESS CHILDREN THAT GOD'S CHILDREN ARE SPONGERS AND MOOCHERS BUT THEN THEY WANT TO GRIND DOWN THE POOR? AND THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH THIS. AND IT'S GOING TO TAKE AT LEAST 33 OF YOU TO GET IT DONE HERE AT THIS STAGE OF DEBATE. THEN YOU'RE GOING TO NEED 33 AT THE NEXT STAGE. AND I WILL NOT QUIT, I PROMISE YOU. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I JUST WANT TO STAND AND INDICATE THAT SENATOR KINTNER AND I HAVE HAD A GOOD CONVERSATION AND I DO SUPPORT HIS AMENDMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE MAY BE SOME CONCERN WITH REGARD IF IT'S A...IN ONE COUNTY AND IT'S LOWER IN ANOTHER COUNTY, WILL PEOPLE GO TO THE OTHER COUNTY TO GET THEIR LICENSE? BUT I THINK SENATOR KINTNER'S PURPOSE IS GOOD HERE IN THE SENSE THAT HE'S TRYING TO RECOGNIZE THAT MAYBE THE INCREASE IS TOO MUCH. BUT HE ALSO UNDERSTANDS THAT THERE ARE COSTS TO THE COUNTIES. AND SO I HAVE APPRECIATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. AND I WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT. I ALSO APPRECIATE SENATOR CHAMBERS' EDUCATION ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT YOU LEARN VERY QUICKLY WHEN YOU SERVE ON A COUNTY BOARD IS THAT YOU HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO POWER OTHER THAN WHAT IS GIVEN TO YOU BY THE STATE BECAUSE YOU ARE AN ARM OF STATE GOVERNMENT. COUNTIES DO NOT HAVE ORDINANCES, THEY ONLY HAVE RESOLUTIONS. THEY CANNOT PASS ANY LAW THAT WOULD BE IN CONFLICT WITH STATE STATUTES. IT'S AN IMPORTANT LESSON THAT WE ALL LEARN AND THAT I CERTAINLY TAUGHT MANY TIMES IN JUNIOR HIGHS AND HIGH SCHOOLS. THE COUNTY IS THERE AS AN ARM OF STATE GOVERNMENT. IT CARRIES OUT MANY OF THE FUNCTIONS THAT WE CANNOT DO IN ONE LOCATION AND WE NEED OTHERS. SO I APPRECIATE SENATOR CHAMBERS GIVING THAT LESSON. TOO OFTEN IN THIS BODY, I THINK, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE EXPECTATIONS THAT WE HAVE OF COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND WHAT THEY DO FOR US. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, PRESIDENT. I THINK SENATOR CAMPBELL SAID 1995 WAS THE LAST TIME THIS WAS CHANGED. YOU THINK THOSE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ARE MAKING THE SAME WAGE? DID TIME FREEZE? DO

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YOU THINK THE UTILITY BILLS AT THE COURTHOUSE ARE THE SAME THEY WERE IN 1995? I WOULD VENTURE TO GUESS THOSE COUNTY EMPLOYEES' WAGES PROBABLY DOUBLED LIKE MOST PEOPLE IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. I'M BRINGING UP THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. IT'S WHAT US FISCAL CONSERVATIVES ALWAYS SAY, IT COULD BE DONE CHEAPER IN THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. DOES ANYBODY IN THIS ROOM THINK IF WE TURNED IT OVER TO THE LAWYERS YOU'D GET OUT OF THERE FOR \$15 TO DRAW UP A MARRIAGE LICENSE, \$150, \$200? SO AS FAR AS THE ECONOMICS OF IT, I DON'T THINK THE COUNTIES...WHICH I'M A COUNTY TAXPAYER..TAX DOLLARS...I'M STILL NEW ENOUGH HERE, I DON'T CONSIDER MYSELF STATE AGAINST COUNTY. I AM A TAXPAYER. THE COUNTIES HAVE TO PAY FOR THE COST OF THOSE EMPLOYEES. AND IF IT DON'T COME OUT OF THE FEE OF THE PERSON USING THE SERVICE, THEN I'VE GOT TO PAY IT. NOW ANOTHER...OPEN UP A CAN OF WORMS. WHY DO WE HAVE MARRIAGE LICENSES IN THE FIRST PLACE? SENATOR CHAMBERS IS RIGHT, IT'S A RELIGIOUS TENET. I DON'T GO DOWN AND GET A FEE...A LICENSE WHEN I CONFIRM MY KIDS. I DON'T GO DOWN AND GET A FEE WHEN I BAPTIZE MY CHILDREN. HOW DID WE EVER GET TO THIS POINT? I'VE HEARD ONE SENATOR SAY IT WAS A SACRED...WELL, THAT'S RELIGION. MAYBE IT'S TIME TO LOOK AT A CIVIL CONTRACT. MAYBE MORE PEOPLE WILL STEP FORWARD THAT ARE NONRELIGIOUS AND SAY, I CAN GO DOWN TO THE COURTHOUSE AND FILL A CIVIL CONTRACT OUT; BUT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH THAT MARRIAGE CEREMONY. THEN WE ELIMINATE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN WHO'S LIVING WITH WHO, BUT THAT'S SOMETHING DOWN THE ROAD WE OUGHT TO LOOK AT. BUT RIGHT NOW, IF YOU CAN GET A LAWYER TO DO IT FOR \$50, I'LL AGREE THAT THAT'S TOO HIGH. BUT UNTIL THEN, I THINK THAT'S REASONABLE. THANK YOU. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. ARE THERE OTHER MEMBERS WISHING TO BE RECOGNIZED? SEEING NONE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SHAKESPEARE WROTE A LOT OF PLAYS AND HE WAS WORDIER THAN I AM AND WITTIER AND RICHER THAN I WILL EVER BE; BETTER KNOWN THAN I WILL EVER BE; PRAISED MORE THAN I WILL EVER BE; CRITICIZED MORE THAN I WILL EVER BE. BUT HE WROTE A POEM, A PLAY WHERE A GUY HAD SAID, I WILL LEND YOU SOME MONEY BUT IF YOU DON'T PAY ME IN MONEY, I'M GOING TO GET A POUND OF YOUR FLESH. I'M NOT LOOKING FOR MONEY FROM THIS LEGISLATURE. I'M GOING TO GET, FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, A POUND OF YOUR FLESH. WHEN YOU BRING THESE BAD BILLS, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY MY FEE, YOU'RE GOING TO PAY MY COSTS. TIME IS WHAT THE

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LEGISLATURE NEEDS, NOT NOW, BECAUSE TO YOU ALL THESE ARE THE EARLY STAGES AND TIME WILL BECOME MORE IMPORTANT WHEN WE START DOING THE WILL...YOU ALL, THE WILL OF THE GOVERNOR. BUT I'LL GO AFTER HIS BILLS THE SAME WAY. AND THAT'S WHEN HE'S GOING TO CRACK THE WHIP OVER THE REST OF YOU AND TELL YOU YOU BETTER FIND A WAY TO SHUT ME UP. AND I'M WAITING FOR THAT TIME AND THAT DAY TO COME. AND I'M WAITING TO SEE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT. ALL OF THESE MEESES WILL--MEESES ARE NOT BABY RATS, MEESES ARE A DIFFERENT SPECIES--ALL OF THESE LITTLE MEESES WERE RUNNING AROUND WORRIED BECAUSE THE CAT WOULD ALWAYS EAT SOME OF THEIR NUMBER. SO THEY SAID, I KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO BECAUSE THE CAT IS SO SNEAKY, WE'LL PUT A BELL ON THE CAT. THEN AN OLD RAT SAID THE WORDS THAT PEOPLE OFTEN USE AND HE PUT IT IN THE FORM OF A QUESTION. BUT HE FIRST SAID, THAT'S A VERY GOOD IDEA. AND WHENEVER THE CAT APPROACHES, YOU WILL HEAR THE BELL WARNING YOU. THEN HE SAID, THE QUESTION IS, WHO WILL BELL THE CAT? SO WHICH ONE OF YOU HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO PUT ME IN MY PLACE? WHO LEADS THE KU KLUX KLAN LYNCH MOB ON THIS FLOOR ON BEHALF OF THE GRAND DRAGON? WHO IS RUNNING THIS COALITION THAT HE SAID PUBLICLY HE HAS ORGANIZED TO PUT ME IN MY PLACE? AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL THAT POOR MISGUIDED, CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN ON THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION THAT HE SHOULD LOSE HIS JOB BECAUSE HE SIMPLY HAD ON A BLOG WHAT THE MAJORITY OF WHITE AMERICANS, AND ESPECIALLY IN NEBRASKA, BELIEVE ABOUT THE PRESIDENT AND WORSE THINGS THAN THAT. NOBODY TOOK ISSUE WITH THE GOVERNOR TALKING ABOUT GETTING A COALITION TOGETHER TO STOP A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE. WHY NOT? THE ONLY REASON YOU'RE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THAT OLD FOOL OVER THERE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD, BECAUSE IT BECAME A NATIONAL ISSUE AND THE STATE WAS EMBARRASSED. AND THEY DIDN'T HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO BE EMBARRASSED UNTIL PEOPLE AROUND THE COUNTRY TOLD THEM, YOU OUGHT TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT THAT. AND THEY SAID, BE EMBARRASSED? WELL, HE...IT'S TRUE. THEY SAID BUT THE REST OF THE STATE AND THE REST OF THE WORLD THINK THAT THOSE THINGS ARE NOT RIGHT. SO THEN ALL OF THEM STARTED TAKING UP THE CHORUS. GET HIM OUT OF HERE. THEY KNEW WHAT HE WAS BEFORE THIS. IF YOU'VE EVER READ HIS BLOG, HE'S BEEN DOING THAT FOR YEARS. THIS IS NOT NEW. I'VE EVEN READ SOME OF THEM THAT HE PUT OUT BECAUSE PEOPLE WOULD SEND THEM TO ME. HE'S HAD NEGATIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT ME. SO WHAT. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO IF THE GOVERNOR CAN PUT TOGETHER A LYNCH MOB TO HANDLE A SENATOR IN THE LEGISLATURE, LET THAT OLD FOOL SAY

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WHAT HE WANTS TO SAY. HE OUGHT TO BE GONE, THOUGH, BASED ON THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY YOU WANT TO REPOSE ON PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOT THESE POSITIONS. BUT THAT'S AN ISSUE FOR YOU ALL. I'VE HEARD FAR WORSE THINGS THAN THAT SAID ABOUT THE PRESIDENT. AND ACTUALLY HE WAS MAKING FUN OF THE PRESIDENT'S MAMA BECAUSE SHE'S WHITE. THAT'S WHO HE'S MAKING FUN OF. THAT'S WHO HE'S MAD AT. SO HERE'S THE GOVERNOR. THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE IN NEBRASKA. THAT IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PEOPLE THAT ARE IN NEBRASKA. WHAT ABOUT THE OUTHOUSE OUT THERE IN FREMONT? IS FREMONT WHERE GOVERNOR...FORMER GOVERNOR HEINEMAN LIVES? THEN YOU'VE GOT THESE BILLS TO TRY TO DENY... [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND THEN I WILL TAKE A ROLL CALL VOTE ON MY MOTION. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: 29 AYES, 1 NAY TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THOSE UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR CRAIGHEAD, WATERMEIER, NORDQUIST, KRIST, AND LARSON, PLEASE RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. SENATOR KRIST, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. MEMBERS, THE QUESTION BEFORE US IS A MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE LB88. MR. CLERK, CALL THE ROLL, REGULAR ORDER. [LB88]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 323.) 5 AYES, 38 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: THE MOTION IS NOT ADOPTED. RAISE THE CALL. ITEMS FOR THE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, IF I MAY BEFORE WE PROCEED, YOUR COMMITTEE

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ON JUDICIARY CHAIRED BY SENATOR SEILER REPORTS LB43 TO GENERAL FILE, LB190 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS, LB219 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS. A SERIES OF HEARING NOTICES FROM THE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. I ALSO HAVE AMENDMENTS TO BE PRINTED: SENATOR CRAWFORD, LB168, LB151; SENATOR LARSON, LB118. RESOLUTIONS: SENATOR KOLTERMAN OFFERS LR44; SENATOR CRAIGHEAD, LR45. THOSE WILL BOTH BE LAID OVER. AND I HAVE A MOTION TO WITHDRAW LB432. THAT ALSO WILL BE LAID OVER. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 323-327.) [LB43 LB190 LB219 LB168 LB151 LB118 LR44 LR45 LB432]

MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE OTHER AMENDMENTS TO LB88. I HAVE A PRIORITY MOTION. SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD MOVE TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE JUST TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, IF YOU READ LITERATURE, YOU WILL COME ACROSS STORIES THAT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER DEAL WITH THE ISSUE OF SOMEBODY SELLING HIS OR HER SOUL TO THE DEVIL. HERE'S WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN EVERY ONE OF THOSE PRESENTATIONS: THE DEVIL, BETTER THAN ANY OTHER PERSONAGE IN LITERATURE, FICTION OR A FICTIONALIZED PRESENTATION OF A REAL PERSON, THE DEVIL ALWAYS KEPT HIS WORD. THE DEVIL ALWAYS KEPT HIS WORD AND DELIVERED SCRUPULOUSLY ON THE PROMISE THAT HE MADE. IN THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF DR. FAUSTUS, WRITTEN BY A YOUNG MAN, CHRISTOPHER MARLOWE, FAUSTUS MADE THIS AGREEMENT AND THE DEVIL GAVE HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTED. BUT HE DIDN'T DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE DEVIL. HE DEALT WITH A FLUNKY, MEPHISTOPHELES. AND FAUSTUS WAS TOLD: YOU READ ALL OF THESE BOOKS, YOU'RE A MAN OF GREAT INTELLIGENCE, I HAVE A DEAL FOR YOU THAT YOU CANNOT PASS UP. FOR A CERTAIN PERIOD OF YEARS, I WILL GIVE YOU ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT, BUT THERE IS A QUID PRO QUO. IN ORDER TO GET THE QUID, YOU HAVE GOT TO PUT UP THE PRO QUO, AND THAT WOULD BE YOUR SOUL. AND FAUSTUS SAY, WHAT IS A SOUL? DEAL. SO FOR SEVERAL YEARS, HE--SOMETIMES INVISIBLE--COULD GO ANYWHERE HE WANTED TO IN THE WORLD. HE EVEN WENT TO THE VATICAN. AND HE WAS MAKING FUN OF THE PRIESTS AND CARDINALS. HE WAS THUMPING PEOPLE ON THE HEAD BECAUSE HE WAS INVISIBLE, DOING ALL THE THINGS HE EVER WANTED TO DO. HE SAW HELEN: IS THIS THE FACE THAT LAUNCHED A THOUSAND SHIPS? HELEN, MAKE ME IMMORTAL WITH A KISS. AND THE DEVIL DELIVERED. BUT WHEN TIME CAME TO PAY, FAUSTUS BECAME TERRIFIED.

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AND BY THIS TIME, HE HAD A WHOLE OF A REPUTATION AS A WISE MAN, AND THESE STUDENTS WERE WITH HIM. AND HE TOLD THEM THAT AN HOUR WAS APPROACHING WHEN HE WOULD BE IN HIS STUDY AND WHATEVER THEY HEARD AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR, DON'T COME IN NO MATTER WHAT I SAY, NO MATTER WHAT YOU HEAR, NO MATTER...DON'T COME. THEN HE STARTED TRYING TO BARGAIN: OH, IF I COULD ONLY BECOME A DROP OF WATER AND VANISH IN THE OCEAN; IF I COULD BECOME A STAR AND BE LOST IN THE DIVINE CONSTELLATIONS OF THE HEAVENS; IF ONLY I COULD TELL THOSE HORSES, STOP RUNNING, LET TIME STOP. BUT A DEAL IS A DEAL. AND WHEN MEPHISTOPHELES CAME TO GET HIM, THEN HE WAS GONE. BUT THE DEVIL KEPT HIS WORD. I WANT TO BE AT LEAST AS WORD KEEPING AS THE DEVIL. I WANT TO HAVE AS MUCH INTEGRITY AS THE DEVIL, NOT THE INTEGRITY OF A CHRISTIAN BECAUSE CHRISTIANS MAKE A WHOLE LOT OF STATEMENTS THAT THEY'RE NOT GOING TO CARRY OUT. I'M TAKING THE DEVIL AS MY EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU KEEP YOUR WORD. WHEN YOU PROMISE IT, IT'S YOUR WORD. NOBODY FORCED YOU TO GIVE IT. I HAVE TO KEEP MY WORD AND I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THEY DON'T GO TO AN AMENDMENT. SO FOR YOU NEW PEOPLE WHO MIGHT BE PAYING ATTENTION, I'M GOING TO LET YOU SEE THE SCRIPT THAT I SHALL FOLLOW. AND IT'S IN YOUR RULE BOOK, THE RULES WHICH I VOTED AGAINST, BUT WILL SCRUPULOUSLY FOLLOW. ON PAGE 49, YOU SEE SOME PROVISIONS FROM RULE 7. IT GIVES A LIST OF MOTIONS AND THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY TAKE PRIORITY. I'M DEALING WITH THE FIRST ONE, WHICH IS TO RECONSIDER, AND I GET TO TALK TEN MINUTES TO OPEN, TWICE ON THE ISSUE, THEN ONE MORE TIME TO CLOSE. THAT'S 25 MINUTES. I CAN TAKE US RIGHT TILL 11:00. THAT'S ON THE RECONSIDERATION OF THAT FIRST MOTION TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE. THEN I CAN MOVE TO POSTPONE IT TO A TIME CERTAIN. THAT'S GIVE A DAY, A DATE, AND THAT WILL TAKE PRIORITY OVER ANY MOTION TO AMEND. THEN, WHEN I LOSE THAT, WHICH I PROBABLY WILL, I WILL MOVE TO RECONSIDER THAT. THEN I WILL MOVE TO RECOMMIT IT TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND MOVE TO RECONSIDER THAT, AND A MORNING IS GONE--GONE. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHAT I TALK ABOUT? I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MINDS. AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND: BECAUSE I HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL YOUR MIND. THERE WAS A PROGRAM ON THE RADIO CALLED THE SHADOW. IT WAS ABOUT A MAN NAMED LAMONT CRANSTON. IN THOSE DAYS, THE FAR EAST WAS VERY MYSTERIOUS. HE HAD GONE TO THE FAR EAST AND DERIVED A SECRET BY WHICH HE COULD CLOUD MEN'S MINDS SO THAT THEY COULD NOT SEE HIM. SO THAT'S WHEN HE BECAME THE SHADOW AND HE WAS INVISIBLE. AND THE MANTRA WAS, WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN. I CAN SEE SENATOR EBKE MOUTHING THE WORDS WITH ME. I PAY ATTENTION, SENATOR EBKE. I'M LIKE ARGUS, THAT GOD, THAT CREATURE THAT HAD EYES ALL THE WAY AROUND HIS HEAD. "ARGUS," LOOK THAT UP. YOU CAN GOOGLE

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IT OR GO READ A BOOK, IF YOU STILL READ BOOKS OR KNOW WHAT BOOKS ARE AND WHERE TO FIND THEM. AFTER HE SAID, WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN, THEN THERE WOULD BE THAT LAUGH AFTER HE SAID, THE SHADOW KNOWS, "AHAHAHAHAHA." THEN THE PROGRAM WOULD START. I REMEMBER WHAT I NEED TO REMEMBER. SO WHEN I TELL YOU THAT MY BRAIN HAS TEFLON CELLS AND NOTHING WILL STICK, THAT'S TRUE. NOTHING THAT I THINK IS WORTHLESS WILL STICK. BUT IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO STICK, THEN I HAVE VELCRO BRAIN CELLS ALSO AND I REMEMBER THINGS, NOT JUST THOSE THINGS I EXPERIENCE, BUT THINGS THAT I READ THAT ARE OF VALUE. WHAT I'M SAYING HERE TODAY IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE ANYBODY'S MIND AND I KNOW IT. BUT I WAS GOING TO TELL YOU WHY YOUR MIND IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE: BECAUSE I HAVE PERSONALIZED THE ISSUE NOW. YOU'VE GOT TO STAND TO STAND AGAINST ME. YOU'VE GOT TO SHOW ME A THING OR TWO. AND I ENJOY BEING SHOWN THINGS BECAUSE I LEARN FROM EVERYBODY. BUT REMEMBER THIS, THOSE OF YOU WHO OFFER AMENDMENTS: YOU'RE HELPING ME. YOU'RE PUTTING UP SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DISCUSSED. AND I DON'T EVEN HAVE TO WRITE THOSE AMENDMENTS TO REDUCE THE DOLLAR AMOUNT BY INCREMENTS OF 50 CENTS OR A DOLLAR OR WHATEVER I CHOOSE TO DO. AND AN AMENDMENT CAN BE AMENDED. AND IF THE AMENDMENT I OFFER IS SHOT DOWN, THEN I MOVE TO RECONSIDER IT. AND YOU ALL WILL BE A WHILE BEFORE YOU GET A VOTE, IF YOU GET A VOTE AT ALL, ON THE AMENDMENT YOU PUT UP THERE. SO NOW YOU'VE SLAPPED ME, AND THAT MEANS THAT WE'RE GOING TO JOIN. AND YOU KNOW THE RULES OF ENGAGEMENT NOW BECAUSE I'VE TOLD YOU. THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT WAS TRIFLING AND WOULD JUST PASS RIGHT THROUGH HERE AND THE COUNTIES COULD GET SOME MONEY. BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO BE THAT EASY. WHAT SENATOR McCOLLISTER IS TALKING ABOUT DOING NOW, ON LICENSE FEES AND SO FORTH, I'M GOING TO BRING AN ARTICLE TO SHOW YOU HOW MANY YEARS AGO I DID THAT AND ACTUALLY SUCCEEDED IN REDUCING THE AMOUNT. I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU IN THAT ARTICLE WHERE I REDUCED THE FEES THAT GAME AND PARKS COULD CHARGE. AND I'M ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT PEOPLE SHOULD PAY TAXES, BUT I ALSO THINK... [LB88]

SENATOR GLOOR: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THERE ARE CERTAIN FEES THAT OUGHT NOT TO BE RAISED. AND I'VE SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING THEM FROM BEING RAISED. AND YOU ALL DON'T KNOW THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T READ AND YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT HAPPENS HERE, JUST LIKE PEOPLE OUTSIDE, LIKE YOU WERE, DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE. AS ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAID, THE WORLD WILL LITTLE NOTE, NOR LONG REMEMBER, ANYTHING WE SAY HERE. AND YOU KNOW WHY THEY WON'T REMEMBER

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WHAT WE DO HERE? BECAUSE THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT WE DO HERE, BECAUSE WE CLOAK IT, WE HIDE IT, WE DISGUISE IT, WE CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE. BUT I'M GOING STRIP AWAY THE COVERS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. AND IF ANY OF YOU TALK, YOU'RE JUST EXTENDING THE TIME FOR ME. AND I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOU TO TALK. I WANT TO DO IT MYSELF. I'M LIKE THE LITTLE RED HEN. SHE WAS A CREATURE IN A BARNYARD AND SHE WAS INDUSTRIOUS. SO SHE DECIDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE SOME FRESH BREAD MADE. SO YOU HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH. THIS IS A LONG-RANGE PROPOSITION, BUT IT'S ALSO TO TEACH CHILDREN A LESSON. THE WHEAT HAD ALREADY BEEN GROWN. SO THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, WHO WILL CUT THE WHEAT? NOT I, QUACKED THE DUCK. NOT I, HONKED AND HISSED THE GOOSE. NOT I, MOOED THE COW. NOT I, GOBBLED THE TURKEY. SO THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, VERY WELL, I'LL DO IT MYSELF. AND SHE DID. SO THEN, AFTER THE WHEAT WAS CUT, SHE SAID, WHO WILL THRESH THE WHEAT? MY STORIES ARE DRAGGED OUT LIKE THEY WERE IN THE BOOKS WHEN WE HAD THEM READ TO US AS CHILDREN, BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO REPEAT THINGS FOR CHILDREN TO CATCH ON, LIKE IN THE LEGISLATURE AND LIKE AT CHURCH WHERE WHETHER IT'S A PRIEST, A PREACHER, A RABBI, OR WHATEVER, THEY REPEAT THE SAME STUFF OVER AND OVER AND OVER. AND THOSE WHO PAID ATTENTION CAN SAY THE WORDS ALONG WITH WHO WAS EVER UP THERE SAYING THEM. SO REPETITION IS A METHOD OF PEDAGOGY. SO SHE...WHO THRESH THE WHEAT? NOT I, MOOED THE COW. NOT I, BOWWOWED THE DOG. NOT I, MEOWED THE CAT. NOT I, QUACK-QUACKED THE DUCK. NOT I, HISSED AND HONKED THE GOOSE. YOU DIDN'T KNOW I KNEW SO MUCH ABOUT LIVESTOCK, DID YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN? WELL, THAT WAS A STORY THAT WAS READ TO ME AND I REMEMBER WHAT I READ. I WOULDN'T KNOW A GOOSE FROM A COW IF I SAW BOTH OF THEM STANDING THERE. SO THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, THEN I WILL DO IT MYSELF. AND SHE THRESHED OUT THE WHEAT. SHE SAID, NOW WE'VE GOT TO GRIND THE WHEAT INTO FLOUR. WHO WILL GRIND THE WHEAT? AND IT WENT THROUGH THAT CATALOG OF NOT I, NOT I, NOT I, NOT I. AND THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, VERY WELL, I WILL DO IT MYSELF. SO SHE GROUND THE WHEAT INTO FLOUR. THEN SHE CAME UP WITH SOMETHING THAT WAS VERY EASY FOR ANYBODY TO DO: I NEED FLOUR...WATER TO MIX WITH THESE OTHER INGREDIENTS; THEN THE BREAD, IT'S CLOSER TO BEING

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MADE. WHO WILL BRING THE WATER? AND ALL: NOT I, NOT I, NOT I, UNTIL THEY GOT DOWN TO A CLEVER ANIMAL, A FOX HAD SLIPPED INTO THE YARD. AND THE FOX SAID, I WOULD BRING YOU THE WATER, BUT HOW WILL I BRING YOU THE WATER? THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, THERE'S A BUCKET. AND YOU ALL KNOW THIS STORY. SO HE LOOKED AT IT AND HE SAID, THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BUCKET. SHE SAID, WELL, FIX IT. HE SAID, HOW WILL I FIX IT? SHE SAID, TAKE SOME PIECES OF WOOD AND STUFF IT IN THE HOLE. HE SAID, WELL, HOW AM I GOING TO CUT THE WOOD? SHE SAID, WITH AN AX. HE SAID, WHERE WILL I GET THE AX? SHE SAID, OVER THERE IN THE TOOL SHED. SO HE GOT THE AX. HE SAID, THE AX IS TOO DULL. SHE SAID, WELL, SHARPEN IT. HE SAID, WITH WHAT SHALL I SHARPEN IT? SHE SAID, WITH A STONE. HE SAID, BUT THE STONE IS DRY. SHE SAID, WELL WET IT. HE SAID, WITH WHAT SHALL I WET IT? SHE SAID, WITH WATER. HE SAID, WELL, HOW SHALL I GET THE WATER? SHE SAID, IN A BUCKET. AND HE SAID, (SINGING) THERE'S A HOLE IN THE BUCKET. AND HE WAS RIGHT BACK WHERE SHE...AND THAT'S WHY FOX ARE CONSIDERED WILY, SLY, AND CLEVER. SO SHE GAVE THE FOX AN F-PLUS. HE DIDN'T FLUNK ALTOGETHER. SO SHE MIXED THE INGREDIENTS, PUT IT...PUT THEM IN THE OVEN, AND THEN THAT AROMA OF FRESHLY... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...BAKED BREAD WAFTED THROUGHOUT THE BARNYARD AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD. AND SHE PULLED OUT THAT GOLDEN BREAD AND SHE SAID, WHO WILL EAT THE BREAD? I, QUACKED THE DUCK. I, GOBBLED THE GOOSE. I, MOOED THE COW. I, WHINNIED THE HORSE. I, BARKED THE DOG. I, MEOWED THE CAT. I, SAID THE FOX. AND THE LITTLE RED HEN SAID, NO, YOU WON'T, I WILL EAT IT MYSELF. SO YOU ALL, IF YOU DO ANYTHING IN THE WAY OF SPEAKING, ARE GOING TO FACILITATE WHAT I'M DOING. SO LEARN FROM THOSE ANIMALS AND SAY YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SPEAK, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELP ME. IF I SAID I'M GOING TO DO IT, YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME DELIVER. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU ARE NEXT IN THE QUEUE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, NOW I'M GOING TO TOUCH AGAIN ON THE BILL THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US. BUT SINCE I'M GOING MAKE THESE MOTIONS, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU AN EXAMPLE THAT ANYBODY COULD UNDERSTAND OF HOW THIS MOTIONING WORKS AND WHAT THE MOTIONS ARE. IF MARRIAGE IS A VALUE, I DON'T KNOW THAT THERE IS ANYTHING IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION THAT REFERS TO MARRIAGE. THE CLOSEST YOU MIGHT GET IS A REQUIREMENT THAT WHATEVER CONTRACTS ARE MADE SOMEWHERE ELSE WOULD HAVE

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TO BE HONORED OTHER PLACES. THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT SAID THAT MARRIAGE IS NOT A CONTRACT, IT'S A STATUS. BUT THE LEGISLATURE CAN DEFINE IT ANY WAY IT CHOOSES. AND WHEN PEOPLE VOTE AGAINST SAME-SEX MARRIAGES AND DO ALL THIS "YOW-YOWING" ABOUT THE PUBLIC, THAT THE VOTERS OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO DETERMINE WHO SHOULD MARRY WHOM, WHAT BUSINESS IS IT OF THEIRS WHO MARRIES WHOM? MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS. TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN AFFAIRS. THE HETEROSEXUALS GET DIVORCES. IN FACT, THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO GET DIVORCED. AND YET, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO SAY, WE WANT TO SAY WHO SHOULD MARRY AND WHO SHOULD NOT. I MENTIONED THE DEVIL BEFORE. THERE WAS A PLAY WRITTEN BY A FELLOW. AND I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE HIS NAME, BECAUSE PEOPLE LIKE TO BE CHALLENGED. THEY CAN GOOGLE IT. BUT THERE WAS A SCENE WHERE LUCIFER WAS ASKED A QUESTION THAT, SINCE HE HAD BEEN KICKED OUT OF HEAVEN AND THERE'S NO HOPE FOR HIM, WHY DOES HE WANT TO BRING EVERYBODY ELSE DOWN WITH HIM? AND HE SAID, IT IS A SOLACE TO THE WRETCHED TO HAVE COMPANIONS IN GRIEF. AND THAT HAS BEEN UPDATED TO: MISERY LOVES COMPANY. SO IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THESE HETEROSEXUAL PEOPLE SHOULD WANT AS MANY PEOPLE TO BE AS MISERABLE AS THEY ARE. SO THEY SHOULD TELL OTHER PEOPLE, WHOEVER WANTS TO MARRY, GO AHEAD AND DO IT. I HAD GOTTEN MARRIED. AND AS I TOLD MY COLLEAGUES ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, THE WOMAN I MARRIED WAS TWICE WISE. SHE WAS WISE THE FIRST TIME WHEN SHE MARRIED ME; SHE WAS WISE THE SECOND TIME WHEN SHE DIVORCED ME, A VERY WISE WOMAN. BUT LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO BE TORTURED BEFORE THEY WILL DO WHAT ULTIMATELY THEY'RE GOING TO DO, SHE HAD TO PASS THROUGH THAT MARRIAGE BEFORE SHE REALIZED NONMARRIAGE WAS THE BEST STATUS, AND THE SAME FOR ME. WE CAN ALL LEARN. BUT WE NEVER FELL OUT. WE WERE VERY GOOD FRIENDS EVEN AFTER THAT. BUT NOBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO DICTATE WHOM SHALL AND WHOM SHALL NOT MARRY WHOM. IS YOUR MARRIAGE THREATENED BECAUSE TWO PEOPLE DOWN THE STREET AND AROUND THE CORNER YOU DON'T LIKE GET MARRIED TO EACH OTHER? IT'S NOBODY'S BUSINESS BUT THEIRS. AND IF ALL THESE SO-CALLED CONSERVATIVES CAN STOP DOING SO MUCH "BUSYBODYING," STICKING THEIR NOSE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S CROTCHES, PUTTING THEIR EARS AGAINST THE BEDROOM WALLS OF OTHERS, PUTTING THEIR EYES TO THE BEDROOM KEYHOLE OF OTHERS, AND MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS,... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...THE WORLD WOULD BE A LOT MORE PEACEFUL PLACE, AND MAYBE THERE WOULD BE FEWER HETEROSEXUALS GETTING DIVORCED BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT'S IN THEIR OWN YARD AND NOT BE "BUSYBODYING" AND MEDDLING IN OTHER PEOPLE'S

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YARD, AS THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO FIND OUT IF HE'D DEAL WITH WHAT THE GOVERNOR IS SUPPOSED TO DO AND NOT BE PEERING OVER THE FENCE INTO THE LEGISLATIVE ARENA, WHERE I AM, TALKING ABOUT WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO TO STOP ME, BECAUSE HE CANNOT STOP ME. BUT THERE IS A WAY THAT I CAN BE STOPPED: REASON WITH ME, SHOW ME THE LIGHT, AND I'LL CARRY IT BETTER AND MORE ENTHUSIASTICALLY AS YOU WILL. BUT WHEN WE DISAGREE, IT'S A MATTER OF ME SHOWING YOU THE LIGHT BECAUSE I'LL BE RIGHT AND YOU'LL BE WRONG. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING ON DISCUSSION OF THE RECONSIDER MOTION, SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR KRIST: GOOD MORNING, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. IN AN EFFORT TO REFOCUS, I DON'T STAND IN SUPPORT OF THE RECONSIDER MOTION. I DO THINK WE NEED TO TAKE AN UP OR DOWN ON LB88, MOVE IT ON, AND TRY TO WORK IT OUT BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE. IT'S MY EXPERIENCE IN FIVE-AND-A-HALF YEARS IN THIS BODY THAT THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS THAT CAN HAPPEN IN THE QUIET MOMENTS BETWEEN GENERAL AND SELECT. SO THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT PROBABLY COULD BE CONSIDERED IN TERMS OF MOVING ON WITH THE VOTE. THE SECOND THING I WOULD SAY TO YOU THIS MORNING IS THAT THIS IS PHILOSOPHICALLY WHERE I STAND. I'M NOT TRYING TO CONVINCING YOU. I WILL NOT TRY TO TWIST YOUR ARM, BUT PHILOSOPHICALLY. IN 2009, WE CAME BACK FOR A SPECIAL SESSION. WE CUT THINGS TO THE BONE. WE HAD TO, BECAUSE, CONSTITUTIONALLY, WE HAD TO BALANCE OUR BUDGET. THERE WERE MANY, MANY, MANY, MANY THINGS THAT WERE CUT TO THE BONE. AND WHAT WE HAD TO DO FROM THE STATE PERSPECTIVE IS MOVE THAT OBLIGATION SOMEPLACE ELSE OR REDUCE IT OR GET RID OF IT. LET ME SAY THAT AGAIN. WE HAD TO REDUCE THE OBLIGATION ON THE STATE LEVEL, MOVE IT SOMEPLACE ELSE, OR GET RID OF IT. WE TOOK MONEY OUT OF CASH FUNDS. AND THE WORST THING THAT WE DID--BUT IT WAS LIKE A SURGEON, YOU'VE GOT TO MAKE THE CUT AT SOME POINT IN ORDER TO SAVE THE PATIENT--WE PUSHED MANY, MANY THINGS DOWN TO THE COUNTY AND THE LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES. UNFUNDED MANDATES IS WHAT THEY'RE CALLED. THEY HAD TO SUCK IT UP. WELL, THEY HAVE. IN MY TIME IN THIS LEGISLATURE, I HAVE SEEN MANY PEOPLE COME BACK TO US AT MANY LEVELS AND SAY, WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THIS SERVICE BECAUSE IT'S COSTING US MONEY. AND YOU'VE HEARD THE NATURAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS AT THAT POINT IS EVERYBODY BLAMES PROPERTY TAX ON THE FACT THAT THEY HAVE NO FUNDED ACTIVITIES OR LACK OF FUNDING AT THAT ACTIVITY. I DON'T BUY THAT ARGUMENT ALL THE

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TIME. I HAVE TO TELL YOU, PHILOSOPHICALLY, I THINK THERE ARE THINGS THAT STILL CAN BE DONE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL TO CUT AND MAINTAIN THOSE SERVICES. BUT REASONABLY, PHILOSOPHICALLY, I WILL STAND HERE AND TELL YOU, IF A COUNTY COMMISSIONER COMES BACK TO ME AND SAYS, I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP, MY ONLY RESORT IS TO DO THIS, I WILL SUGGEST THIS, THAT, AND THOSE. BUT ULTIMATELY, IT IS THAT COMMISSIONER'S DECISION AND THE CLERK'S DECISION AS TO THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS IN THE COUNTY. SO IN THAT PARTICULAR VEIN, I WOULD SUPPORT LB88. I WILL ALSO TELL YOU THAT THERE ARE COUNTIES, AND I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THIS ALREADY ON THE MIKE TODAY--I'VE BEEN OUT OF THE CHAMBER A BIT AND I DON'T WANT TO REPEAT--BUT THERE ARE COUNTIES OUT THERE WHO WILL NOT BE MADE WHOLE EVEN BY THIS MOVE. AND YOU REPRESENT SOME OF THOSE COUNTIES. AND THERE ARE THOSE THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS IN SOME CAPACITY. BUT WITH THE COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES AND THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, IT WON'T LAST LONG. SO I WOULD ASK YOU NOT TO SUPPORT THE RECONSIDER MOTION, BUT PHILOSOPHICALLY TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE HAD TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS IN 2009. WE DON'T HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION TODAY. THAT'S NOT WHAT'S CALLED FOR. WHAT'S CALLED FOR TODAY IS BEING REASONABLE TO THE REQUEST OF THE LOCAL COUNTIES AND THE MUNICIPALITIES. THANK YOU, MEMBERS. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SEEING NO OTHER MEMBERS IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHAT SENATOR KRIST SAID IS TRUE, BUT IT'S IRRELEVANT. I'D LIKE TO ASK HIM A QUESTION, HOWEVER. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR KRIST, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB88]

SENATOR KRIST: OH, ABSOLUTELY. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR KRIST, DO YOU THINK THAT PROPERTY TAXES WERE INCREASED BECAUSE THESE COUNTIES ARE NOT BEING ABLE TO REALIZE ENOUGH FROM MARRIAGE LICENSES? [LB88]

SENATOR KRIST: THE QUESTION IS, DO I THINK PROPERTY TAX BY ITSELF WAS INCREASED BECAUSE OF THIS? NO, SIR, I DO NOT. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. DO YOU THINK, IF THIS BILL IS PASSED, PROPERTY TAXES WILL DECREASE AS A RESULT OF THAT? [LB88]

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SENATOR KRIST: OH, I HAVE NO CONFIDENCE THAT LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES WILL DECREASE TAXES. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. [LB88]

SENATOR KRIST: YOU'RE WELCOME. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHY EVEN TIE THIS INTO PROPERTY TAXES? IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT. IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT SOME KIND OF ISSUE, OTHER THAN STRICTLY POLITICAL, IT'S A MORAL ISSUE. IT HAS TO DO WITH VALUES. IT HAS TO DO WITH PRINCIPLES, AND THEY'RE THE PRINCIPLES THAT YOU ALL ARE THE ONES WHO ALWAYS TALK ABOUT, NOT ME. AND THAT'S WHY WHAT HAPPENS HERE IS AN IRRITANT TO ME. JUST STOP TALKING ABOUT THESE THINGS AND I WILL STILL TALK ABOUT WHAT I BRING UP, BUT I CAN'T ACCUSE YOU OF HYPOCRISY. THAT'S WHAT THE REST OF THE WORLD OFTEN SAYS TO THE UNITED STATES. YOU SAY THAT WE'RE DICTATORIAL. YOU SAY WE'RE TYRANNICAL. WELL, LET US GIVE YOU THAT. BUT AT LEAST WE DON'T CARRY THE BURDEN OF BEING HYPOCRITICAL ABOUT IT. EVERYTHING YOU CRITICIZE US FOR, YOU DO WORSE IN YOUR COUNTRY. THEY TALKED ABOUT VARIOUS GROUPS IN AFGHANISTAN WHICH SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO VOTE AND HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE GOVERNMENT, THAT DEMOCRACY IS ABOUT VOTING. THEN THIS LEGISLATURE IS CONSIDERING BILLS TO CURTAIL THE VOTE OF A SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION, AND I'M A MEMBER OF THAT SEGMENT. AND YOU ALL, ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE GOING TO THE MILITARY TO DEFEND THIS AND THAT, I GOT MY HONORABLE DISCHARGE AND I CAN...I HAVE A RIGHT NOW TO HAVE MY VOTE CURTAILED BY THESE WHITE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO PREACH TO THE REST OF THE WORLD ABOUT DEMOCRACY. IT'S A MOCKERY. AND YOU THINK I'M GOING TO STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND ACT LIKE IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME? THIS IS AS MUCH A KU KLUX KLAN ACTION AS ANYTHING I'VE SEEN AND READ ABOUT. I READ YOUR HISTORY, WRITTEN BY YOUR PEOPLE. IN THE 1800s, THEY HAD THE KU KLUX KLAN LAWS THAT CONGRESS ENACTED BECAUSE OF THE THINGS BEING DONE TO DEPRIVE BLACK PEOPLE OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE. BLACK PEOPLE HAVE FOUGHT IN EVERY WAR THIS COUNTRY EVER HAD, NOT EXCLUDING THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR. AND IN EVERY ONE OF THOSE WARS, INCLUDING THE CIVIL WAR, BLACK PEOPLE WERE TOLD, IF YOU FIGHT FOR THIS COUNTRY, YOU'LL BE GIVEN YOUR FREEDOM. GEORGE WASHINGTON PROMISED IT THEN RENEGED. ANDREW JACKSON PROMISED IT AND RENEGED. WHITE PEOPLE DON'T KEEP THEIR WORD. WE TOOK YOUR WORD THE WAY YOU GAVE IT, AND WE WERE TRICKED. WE WERE SUCKERED. WE WERE DUPED. AND EVEN WITH ALL THAT, YOU... [LB88]

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SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS ...SEND US TO COUNTRIES SPEAKING A LANGUAGE WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, SUPPOSEDLY FIGHTING THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY TO PROTECT RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY. BUT PEOPLE LIKE THEMSELVES DON'T ENJOY THOSE RIGHTS. THAT'S WHY I GET SICK OF THIS STUFF ABOUT VETERANS AND SO FORTH. EVEN THERE, THE DISCRIMINATION REMAINS INTACT. BUT WHEN THOSE KU KLUX KLAN BILLS GET OUT HERE, THAT'S WHEN I'M GOING TO HAVE WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO CALL A FILIBUSTER, BECAUSE I'M GOING TO READ SOME HISTORY. AND I'M GOING TO HAVE MANY, MANY AMENDMENTS SO THAT I CAN READ A LOT OF HISTORY AND GET IT INTO THE RECORD, SO THESE WHITE PEOPLE WILL LEARN WHAT THEY AND THEIR ANCESTORS HAVE DONE TO US. AND THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE OUR RIGHTS TO VOTE. IT'D BE BETTER, IF THEY WERE MEN, TO COME UP AND HIT ME IN MY MOUTH AND SAY, I DON'T LIKE YOU, ERNIE, AND I'M GOING TO KNOCK YOU DOWN. AND IF HE HAD THE NERVE, HE'D COME HERE AND HIT ME IN MY MOUTH RIGHT NOW AND WE'D SEE WHO THE MAN IS. THAT'S HOW YOU DETERMINE MANHOOD? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WE'LL DO IT ANY WAY YOU SAY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO THE...ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS, SHALL THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER THE LAST VOTE BE TAKEN? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE ROLL. [LB88]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN.) 2 AYES, 33 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER IS NOT ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE...I HAVE AMENDMENTS, BUT SENATOR CHAMBERS OFFERS A PRIORITY MOTION. HE WOULD MOVE TO BRACKET THE BILL UNTIL FEBRUARY 13. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, SENATOR KRIST MADE AN INTRIGUING OBSERVATION. I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S STILL...HE'S STILL ON THE FLOOR. HE SAID A LOT CAN BE DONE BETWEEN GENERAL FILE AND SELECT FILE, AND THAT HAS HAPPENED. SO LEAVE THE BILL ON GENERAL FILE AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN COME UP WITH. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO CONSENT TO MOVING IT WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT SOMETHING WILL BE DONE WHEN WHAT I WANT TO SEE IS NOTHING DONE. THIS IS AN ISSUE WHICH HAS TO BE RESOLVED IN THE APPROPRIATE MANNER, AND THAT IS BY KILLING THIS BILL. THIS BILL WAS BROUGHT, IN MY OPINION, BECAUSE THE COUNTY PEOPLE GOT TOGETHER AND SAID: WHAT CAN WE PUT BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE THAT NOBODY WILL OBJECT TO? THE FIRST THING WE HAVE DO IS MAKE SURE THAT WE BURDEN A GROUP WHO WILL HAVE NO REPRESENTATION ON THE FLOOR OF THE LEGISLATURE. WE WILL HAVE TO BURDEN A GROUP WHICH PROBABLY IS NOT LIKELY TO HAVE ANY POLITICAL CLOUT ANYWHERE. SO LET'S PICK A GROUP WHO ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE ANYTHING TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM, BUT A GROUP WHO, IF THEY SEEK A SERVICE, ARE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY MORE FOR IT BECAUSE THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO PAY IN THE FIRST PLACE. SO LET'S PICK THOSE WHO WANT TO GET MARRIED. AND WE WILL JACK UP THE FEE MORE THAN 300 PERCENT, BECAUSE YOU KNOW HOW THOSE PEOPLE IN THE LEGISLATURE ARE, LILY LIVERED, COWARDLY. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO VOTE A TAX THAT'S CALLED WHAT IT IS. BUT IF YOU CALL IT A FEE, THEY'LL DO IT. I BELIEVE IN TRANSPARENCY. AND THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE YAKETY-YAKKING ABOUT THAT THE FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION, OR WHENEVER WE WERE GOING TO DEAL WITH ADOPTING THE PERMANENT RULES. AND ALL THAT MEANS WHEN YOU PUT IT IN POLITICAL CONTEXT IS THAT EVERYTHING THAT'S DONE IS DONE OPENLY AND ABOVEBOARD. THERE'S NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE ANYTHING, NO ATTEMPT TO USE SMOKE AND MIRRORS, NO ATTEMPT TO TRICK ANYBODY. WELL, NOBODY ON THE FLOOR IS CONTEMPLATING GETTING MARRIED, SO NOBODY ON THIS FLOOR IS EXPECTED TO SAY ANYTHING. IT'S THE KIND OF ISSUE THAT NOBODY WILL OBJECT TO AND CERTAINLY NOT THE KIND OF ISSUE THAT ANYBODY WILL FIGHT AGAINST. BUT I WILL, I SHALL, AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO DO. I'M IN THE PROCESS OF DOING IT NOW. AND I SAID THAT I CAN GET US ALL THE WAY TO ADJOURNMENT WITHOUT ANY OF THESE AMENDMENTS BEING CONSIDERED, AND THAT'S WHAT I HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE FOR YOU. THE BEST WAY TO TEACH SOMETHING IS TO DEMONSTRATE IT, NOT JUST SAY IT. THAT'S WHY IT'S SO EASY FOR WHITE PEOPLE TO TAKE THE RIGHTS AWAY FROM OTHER PEOPLE, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THOSE PEOPLE HAVE NEVER ENJOYED ALL THEIR RIGHTS. SO JUST CONTINUE DOING WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING. AND YOU DON'T WANT IT DONE TO YOU. YOU COULDN'T TAKE IT. BUT THAT'S WHY THOSE OF US WHO SURVIVE ARE VERY STRONG: DON'T CARE WHAT YOU THINK, DON'T CARE

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WHAT YOU SAY. AND WHILE I'M HERE, YOUR RULES ARE WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE. YOUR RULES ARE HOW I'M GOING TO SURVIVE. AND YOUR RULES ARE WHAT I'M GOING TO WHIP YOU WITH. AND IF YOU CHANGE YOUR RULES, I WILL TAKE THOSE NEW RULES AND I'LL DO THE SAME THING WITH THEM. I WILL WHIP YOU EVERY TIME. YOU CANNOT WIN. DO YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE YOUR RULES CRIPPLE YOU MORE THAN THEY CAN EVER CRIPPLE ME. THEY HELP ME. BUT IF YOU WOULD JUST PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH, THERE'S A LOT LESS OF WHAT I SAY THAT YOU WOULD HAVE TO LISTEN TO. MANY YEARS AGO, I BROUGHT LEGISLATION TO ALLOW SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. AND YOU KNOW WHAT PUSHED ME TO BRING THAT? INITIALLY, I WAS JUST BRINGING LEGISLATION THAT SAID PEOPLE COULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, VERY REASONABLE, BECAUSE THESE ARE HUMAN BEINGS. THE RIGHTS THAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT ARE RIGHTS GRANTED TO EVERY MEMBER OF THIS SOCIETY, EVERY RESIDENT. BUT THAT WAS TOO STRONG FOR THESE CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS IN DEMOCRACY. SO I SAID, THEN I MAY AS WELL PUSH IT ALL THE WAY, I WANT TO TRY TO LEGALIZE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE. WELL, SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO WERE AGAINST THAT IDEA WERE SO FEARFUL THAT I MIGHT FIND A WAY TO DO IT, LEGISLATIVELY, THAT THEY SAID THEY WANTED TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION. AND IN THE SAME WAY THAT MY NAME WAS INVOKED TO GET TERM LIMITS, MY NAME WAS INVOKED TO GET ON THE BALLOT AND ENACTED AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, THE PROHIBITION AGAINST PEOPLE OF THE SAME SEX MARRYING EACH OTHER. SO THERE ARE TWO MAJOR PROVISIONS OF YOUR CONSTITUTION THAT LIONIZED ME: THE ONE THAT PROHIBITS SAME-SEX MARRIAGE; THE ONE THAT IMPOSED TERM LIMITS. THAT'S HOW YOUR CONSTITUTION HONORS ME, IF YOU WANT TO CALL IT AN HONOR. NO OTHER SENATOR CAN SAY THAT, BECAUSE YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING OF THAT MUCH CONSEQUENCE. WE SHOULD. AND YOU OUGHT TO JUST PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH. YOU ALL PREACH ABOUT MARRIAGE IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS. BUT WHETHER IT'S RELIGIOUS, POLITICAL, LEGAL, YOU ALWAYS COME BACK TO THE SAME STARTING POINT: IT SHOULD JUST BE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN AND IT'S GOING TO STABILIZE SOCIETY AND ALL THESE OTHER THINGS THAT YOU DON'T BELIEVE BECAUSE IN YOUR OWN FAMILY THOSE THINGS ARE NOT WORKING. IS THAT A CONDEMNATION OF YOU OR SAYING YOU CANNOT CONDUCT YOUR AFFAIRS PROPERLY? NO. IT'S SAID BECAUSE I UNDERSTAND HUMAN NATURE. WHEN YOU PUT PEOPLE TOGETHER ALL THE TIME, THEY BEGIN TO SEE THINGS THAT THEY MAY HAVE SEEN BEFORE BUT THEY PRETENDED THEY DIDN'T BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO LOVE THAT PERSON. SO THEY HAD TO IDEALIZE THAT PERSON, DO AWAY WITH EVERY FLAW, AND NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT THOSE THINGS THAT THEY KNEW WERE FLAWS. BUT ONCE THEY GET MARRIED AND THEY HAVE TO BE AROUND EACH OTHER AND THAT VENEER WEARS AWAY, THEN ALL OF THOSE CRITICISMS

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THAT THEY HAD SUPPRESSED WHILE THEY WERE COURTING AND TRYING TO WIN EACH OTHER, THEY COME EXPLODING TO THE FRONT, AND THEN EACH BEGINS TO TELL THE OTHER WHAT HE OR SHE REALLY THOUGHT. AND THEN THEY SAY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT, WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME KNOW? AND THE REJOINDER IS, WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU THOUGHT, WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME KNOW? AND THEN ANOTHER BASIS FOR AN ARGUMENT ERUPTS, BECAUSE THERE'S DISHONESTY IN THIS SOCIETY AT ALL LEVELS AND UNWILLINGNESS TO SPEAK THE TRUTH. SOMETIMES, IT MIGHT BE TO AVOID HURTING SOMEBODY'S FEELINGS. USUALLY, IT'S TO AVOID A CONFRONTATION OR A DIFFICULTY FOR ONESELF. SO WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES IN THE WAY THAT YOU DO, AND YOU PERSUADE ME THAT MAYBE YOU HAVE A POINT, THEN I WANT YOU TO SHOW ME HOW VALUABLE THIS THING IS BY PRACTICING WHAT YOU PREACH. SHOW ME THAT IT REALLY WORKS. IF I GOT A VERY BAD BELLYACHE AND YOU HAVE, TOO, AND YOU'VE GOT A CONCOCTION IN A BOTTLE AND YOU SAY, ERNIE, ONE TEASPOON OF THIS WILL HELP YOU. AND I SAY, WHAT WILL IT HELP ME DO? IT WILL HELP YOU GET RID OF THAT BELLY ACHE. I SAY, WELL, YOU, OVER THERE, DOUBLED OVER, WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT AND GET RID OF YOUR BELLYACHE FIRST? AND THEN, WHEN YOU HURT AS MUCH AS I HURT BUT YOU WON'T TAKE IT, IT MAKES ME BELIEVE THAT YOU'RE LYING TO ME. THERE'S NOT SOMETHING IN THAT BOTTLE THAT WILL HELP ME. THERE'S SOMETHING THAT WILL HARM ME. AND IF YOU WERE GOING TO EMPLOY TRUTH IN ADVERTISING, YOU WOULD PUT A PICTURE OF A SKULL AND CROSSBONES, BECAUSE THAT'S THE UNIVERSAL SYMBOL... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...FOR POISON. AND THAT'S WHAT'S LIKELY IN THAT BOTTLE. SO WHEN YOU COME TO ME TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE IS SUCH A WONDERFUL THING, AND I WATCH HOW IT'S NOT ONLY CORRUPTING THE SOCIETY AS A WHOLE, BUT IT'S LEADING PEOPLE TO KILL EACH OTHER IN THEIR HOMES, KILL THEIR CHILDREN, KILL RELATIVES--AND I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT'S A GOOD THING? IT'S NOT WORKING FOR YOU, AND YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT IT THAN ME BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONE PUSHING IT. I SAY, I WILL LEARN FROM YOU. I DON'T HAVE TO GET BURNED ON THE STOVE TO KNOW THAT IT'S HOT. I SAW THAT WHEN YOU PUT YOUR HAND ON IT AND YOU GOT BURNED. BUT IN THIS SITUATION, I CANNOT PERSUADE PEOPLE NOT TO MARRY. AND I WOULDN'T EVEN TRY TO. BUT SINCE IT'S SOMETHING THAT THE STATE DEMANDS AND THE STATE PUTS A HIGH VALUE ON MARRIAGE, I'M GOING TO DO ALL I CAN TO STOP THEM FROM PUTTING THIS ADDITIONAL TAX ON IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE

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HEARD THE MOTION ON...TO BRACKET. THE FLOOR IS NOW OPEN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT A BRACKET MOTION IS. IN THE RULE BOOK, IT SAYS...IT USES THE WORD "POSTPONE" TO A TIME CERTAIN. WE USE THE TERM "BRACKET." THAT MEANS THEY JUST HOLD IT WHERE IT IS AND, IF THE VOTE IS SUCCESSFUL, THEN THE BILL CAN BE UNBRACKETED ON THAT DATE TO WHICH IT HAD BEEN BRACKETED PURSUANT TO THE MOTION. SO IT'S LIKE SAYING, POSTPONE IT UNTIL FEBRUARY 13. I DON'T KNOW IF FEBRUARY 13 IS A FRIDAY OR WHATEVER THE DAY OF THE WEEK IT IS. BUT SINCE YOU'RE NOT GOING TO VOTE FOR IT ANYWAY, IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. AND THIS IS AN EXERCISE NOT DESIGNED TO PERSUADE YOU TO VOTE THE WAY I WANT YOU TO VOTE ON THIS BILL, BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO ROPED IN AND YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE FOR THIS BILL. YOU'RE NOT DOING A FAVOR FOR SENATOR CAMPBELL, AND YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING TO HARM HER IF YOU VOTE AGAINST IT. I THINK YOU'RE ASSUMING AND DISCHARGING YOUR DUTY IN THE WAY THAT YOU SHOULD. THIS THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO IS NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY IMPACT ON THE OVERALL BUDGET OF ANY COUNTY. DON'T TALK ABOUT PROPERTY TAX BECAUSE, SINCE IT HAS NO IMPACT ON IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, PROPERTY TAX WILL NOT BE IMPLICATED NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO. SO LOOK AT IT JUST ON THE BASIS OF WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES. IF YOU HAVE TO RAISE THESE OTHER ISSUES, IT SHOWS THAT YOU CANNOT LOOK THIS ONE IN THE EYE AND DEAL WITH IT AS IT IS, SO YOU HAVE TO DEFLECT ATTENTION SOMEWHERE ELSE. AND PROPERTY TAX, AS I STATED, IS THE MANTRA FOR THIS SESSION. WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO LOOK AT IS HOW MUCH TIME WE'RE GOING TO TAKE. EDGAR ALLAN POE HAD A POEM ABOUT THE BELLS, BUT HE TALKED ABOUT TIME. AND THESE BELLS WERE "KEEPING TIME, TIME, TIME, IN A SORT OF RUNIC RHYME." SO TIME IS A CONCEPT THAT IS USED IN MANY CONTEXTS, BUT THERE'S ONE UNMISTAKABLE USE OF IT. AS THE HAND ON THAT CLOCK GOES AROUND THE FACE OF THE CLOCK, OR AS THESE DIGITAL CLOCKS THROW NUMBERS UP, USABLE TIME FOR YOUR PURPOSES IS PASSING. AND I AM GOING TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN UNDER THE RULES TO DEFEAT A BILL THAT I THINK IS UNWORTHY OF THIS LEGISLATURE. SO WE'RE GOING BE HERE FOR AWHILE. SENATOR FRIESEN, WOULD YOU MOVE OVER JUST A LITTLE BIT? THANK YOU, BECAUSE I WANT TO BE ABLE TO SEE. HE'S A BIG MAN. I'M TRYING TO THINK WHO THAT WAS IN A MOVIE. HE SAID, BIG MAN, BIG MAN. I FORGET EVEN WHO HE WAS TALKING ABOUT. BUT HE IS QUITE A SIZABLE INDIVIDUAL. (LAUGHTER) THAT'S NOT A CRITICISM. IT'S A STATEMENT OF FACT. BUT AT ANY RATE, YOU'VE GOT TO CONSIDER, AND YOU WILL CONSIDER, WHEN WE LEAVE HERE TODAY HOW MUCH TIME YOU WANT TO SPEND ON THIS BILL. AND WHILE WE'RE NOT DEBATING ALL DAY, BECAUSE WE'VE GOT COMMITTEE HEARINGS,

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I ONLY HAVE TO TAKE, AT MOST, THREE HOURS A MORNING UNTIL WE FINISH THE EIGHT HOURS. THAT'S WHEN YOU CAN INVOKE CLOTURE. SO THAT GIVES ME, IN EFFECT, THREE DAYS. YOU GOING TO GIVE ME THREE DAYS? NOT ONLY ON THIS BILL, BUT ON OTHER BILLS BECAUSE, IF THIS ONE MOVES, I GOT TO DO THINGS TO MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR US TO GET TO IT AGAIN. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SO I'VE GOT TO TAKE TIME ON OTHER BILLS THAT ARE IN FRONT OF IT. I'M TELLING YOU THE WAY I OPERATE. AND THERE'S NOTHING I HAVE IN THIS...BEFORE THIS LEGISLATURE THAT IS SO IMPORTANT I CAN'T BRING IT UP NEXT SESSION. AND I'LL BE HERE NEXT SESSION BECAUSE, WHEREAS I THOUGHT I MIGHT CROAK BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION, NOW YOU ALL HAVE GIVEN ME SOMETHING TO LIVE FOR. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHICH TIME IS THIS THAT I'M SPEAKING? SECOND OR FIRST? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THIS WILL BE YOUR THIRD TIME SPEAKING. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ON THIS MOTION? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: YES. YOU OPENED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: RIGHT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: YOU'VE SPOKEN ONCE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Um-hum. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THIS WILL BE NUMBER THREE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBER: AND I SPOKE ONCE. AND OPENING AND SPEAKING ONCE EQUALS THREE? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THIS WILL BE YOUR THIRD TIME. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THEN I HAVE TIME TO CLOSE? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: YES. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: YOU DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN, MR. CHAIR, BUT I'LL GO BY WHAT YOU SAY. I WANTED TO SEE IF HE WAS ALERT. AND YOU SEE, WHEN I'M TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING OF VALUE, NOBODY IS PAYING ATTENTION. THEN WE GET INTO A DISCUSSION ABOUT NOTHING, AND EVERYBODY'S LITTLE EARS PERK UP, THEIR EYES GLISTEN, AND THEY WONDER HOW THIS IS GOING TO TURN OUT. HOW CAN IT TURN OUT? HE SAID THE THIRD TIME. ALL YOU GOT TO DO IS BE ABLE TO COUNT ONE, TWO, THREE. AND THAT'S WHAT HE DID AND I ACCEPTED IT. NOW YOU CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP. BUT IN THE MEANTIME, TIME IS GOING TO CONTINUE PASSING. AND IF I SHOULD DECIDE THAT I'M GOING TO LET YOU DISCUSS SOME AMENDMENTS TOMORROW, IF IT COMES UP AGAIN, THE TIME YOU SPEND DISCUSSING YOUR AMENDMENTS ARE HELPING ME. WE ARE STAYING ON THIS BILL. THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO CRACK A WALNUT. SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO ASSIST ME, I WILL ACCEPT YOUR ASSISTANCE. BUT LIKE THE DEVIL, I MADE A PROMISE. AND IN KEEPING THE DEVIL'S INTEGRITY INTACT, IF IT WAS RELIGIOUS AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT GOD, I CAN SAY ANYTHING I WANT. JUST THROW THAT ASIDE. THAT MEANS NOTHING. BUT IF I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE DEVIL AND THE DEVIL HAS ALWAYS SHOWN THAT HE KEEPS HIS WORD, AND I'M GOING TO PUT MYSELF IN SUCH AUGUST COMPANY, I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY WORD, AS THE DEVIL WOULD KEEP HIS WORD, UNLIKE CHRISTIANS, WHO VIOLATE THEIR WORD, THEIR PROMISE, THEIR PRAYERS, AND EVERYTHING ELSE ALL THE DAY LONG. SO I SHALL CONTINUE AND MAKE SURE THAT THERE'S NO TIME LEFT TO CONSIDER THESE OTHER ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS OFFERING AMENDMENTS AND DISCUSSING THEM. BUT HERE IS HOW YOU CAN BEAT ME AT MY OWN GAME TODAY: WHEN THEY TAKE THE VOTE ON RECESSING AND THEY SAY, ALL IN FAVOR SAY AYE--EVERYBODY SAYS AYE, BUT WHEN THEY SAY NAY, IF YOU'RE AGAINST, I SAY NAY--YOU CAN TRICK ME BY VOTING NAY. THEN WE DON'T RECESS, AND YOU KEEP ME HERE LONGER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED OUR STAYING. AND THEN MAYBE YOU KEEP ME FROM DELIVERING ON THE PROMISE THAT I MADE. BUT IN STOPPING ME FROM DELIVERING ON THAT PROMISE, YOU HELP ME SUCCEED IN DOING SOMETHING THAT I THOUGHT I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SUCCEED IN DOING, AND THAT'S PREVENT US FROM RECESSING WHEN EVERYBODY WANTS TO. SO IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION FOR ME. BUT IN ANY CASE, THIS BILL IS GOING TO CONSUME A LOT OF TIME. THIS BRACKET MOTION IS REASONABLE. NOW IF SOMEBODY MAKES A BRACKET MOTION, THAT MOTION CANNOT BE AMENDED IN THE SENSE OF CHANGING THE DATE AND CONTINUING TO CHANGE IT. THAT BRACKET MOTION HAS TO BE CONSIDERED THE WAY IT'S MADE. BUT ANY MATTER, UNLESS IT'S SPECIFICALLY STATED OTHERWISE IN THE RULE BOOKS... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...CAN BE RECONSIDERED. AND THE REASON I MAKE RECONSIDERATION MOTIONS, PEOPLE SHOULD BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO REFLECT ON WHATEVER IT IS THEY DID AND MAYBE DO IT A DIFFERENT WAY, ALTHOUGH I DOUBT THAT YOU'LL DO THAT. BUT THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE MOTIONS ASSIST ME IMMEASURABLY. AND THE NEXT MOTION IS GOING TO SEE ME TAKING MORE TIME, TALKING MORE SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THIS NEFARIOUS THING YOU'RE LETTING THESE COUNTY OFFICIALS GET YOU TO DO. I DON'T REMEMBER IF SOMEBODY WHO PERFORMS MARRIAGES WAS FOR THIS. BY THE WAY, THE ONLY ONE IN THE LEGISLATURE THAT I'M AWARE OF WHO DOES THAT IS ME, AND I DON'T CHARGE PEOPLE WHEN I PERFORM THEIR WEDDING CEREMONIES. I DON'T CHARGE ANYTHING. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WOULD ASK FOR A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REGULAR ORDER. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. MR. CLERK, PLEASE RECORD. [LB88]

CLERK: 27 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBERS AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. UNEXCUSED SENATORS OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER PLEASE RETURN. ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS NORDQUIST, BURKE HARR, KRIST, DAVIS, MURANTE, SCHILZ, AND LARSON, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. SENATOR KRIST, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBERS AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. MEMBERS, THE MOTION IS, SHALL LB88 BE BRACKETED UNTIL FEBRUARY 13? THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE ROLL. [LB88]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 328.) 2 AYES, 37 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO BRACKET. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION TO BRACKET FAILS. I RAISE THE CALL. [LB88]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, A PRIORITY MOTION, SENATOR CHAMBERS WOULD

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MOVE TO RECONSIDER THE VOTE JUST TAKEN. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. SOME OF THOSE VOICES WERE A LITTLE LESS STRONG THAN THEY WERE EARLIER THIS MORNING, SO I'M WEARING YOU DOWN. YOU DON'T KNOW IT. YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION. BUT I DO AND I CAN TELL I'VE GOT YOU ALMOST WHERE I WANT YOU. BUT ONE THING: YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO RECESS IN 31 MINUTES. YOU THINK I CAN'T KEEP YOU HERE FOR 31 MINUTES? AND I WON'T STAY HERE THAT LONG BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS THAT THE CLERK HAS TO DO. BUT AT ANY RATE, I HEARD A NAME PRONOUNCED, AND I DON'T SEE IT SPELLED UP THERE THE WAY IT'S PRONOUNCED. IT WAS "RIEPE," AND SO IT MUST BE A FRENCH NAME AND THE WORD...THE NAME IS REPEAT, R-E-P-E-A-T, BECAUSE EVERY TIME IT'S PRONOUNCED, THE PERSON SAYS THE SAME THING. SO I GUESS IT MEANS REPEAT. AND ALL THE PERSON SAID: NO, NO, NO, NO. I'M TRYING TO CATCH ON TO THINGS AROUND HERE. BUT NOW, AS I STATED, I'M GOING TO GO BACK AND SPEAK MORE SPECIFICALLY TO THIS MOTION. THERE WOULD BE VERY FEW PEOPLE ON THIS FLOOR WHO, IF WE WERE BEING HONEST AND CALLING SOMETHING A TAX, WOULD SAY, WE'RE GOING TO RAISE IT MORE THAN 300 PERCENT. NOT ONE OF YOU WOULD DO THAT IF YOU CALLED IT WHAT IT IS. BUT SINCE YOU CAN PLAY THE HYPOCRITE AND HIDE AND TRICK THE PUBLIC AND YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN TRANSPARENCY, DESPITE ALL OF THAT YAKETY-YAK THAT THE "REPELICANS" IN DOUGLAS AND LANCASTER COUNTY TOLD YOU TO DO, YOU ARE GOING TO INCREASE THIS AMOUNT BY MORE THAN 300 PERCENT BECAUSE, IF IT IS \$15, THREE TIMES \$15 WOULD BE JUST \$45. MORE THAN 300 PERCENT, HOW DARE YOU INCREASE ANY TAX BY THAT AMOUNT. BUT YOU KNOW WHY YOU DARE? BECAUSE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH IT. WHAT ABOUT ALL THESE PLATTE INSTITUTE PEOPLE? I EVEN QUIT READING THE STUFF THAT THEY SENT OUT BECAUSE IT WAS...THEY REPEAT IT ALL THE TIME, ONE LINE, ALL THE TIME LIKE "JOHNNY ONE NOTE." AND NOW THEY ARE GOING TO VOTE TO INCREASE A TAX BY MORE THAN 300 PERCENT. THEN THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO HAVE HIS COALITION AND HIS CRICKETS IN HERE TALKING ABOUT, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE AN INCOME TAX CUT TO THE RICH PEOPLE, BECAUSE THE RICH PEOPLE MUST BE SERVED. BUT YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A PROBLEM DOING THAT. AND YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM DOING THAT THAN YOU ARE SITTING THROUGH WHAT I'M DOING NOW? BECAUSE THE GOVERNOR IS GOING TO INSIST THAT YOU FIGHT ME ON THAT BILL. HE IS GOING TO INSIST THAT YOU GET UP ON YOUR FEET AND SAY SOMETHING, BECAUSE THAT'S GOING TO BE A BILL SO EASY, SO EASY TO AMEND IN SO

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MANY WAYS. AND I WILL NOT EVEN CARE IF YOU GET SOME AMENDMENTS SLIPPED IN AHEAD OF MINE, BECAUSE ALL WE WANT TO DO IS STAY ON IT FOR EIGHT HOURS, AND I'LL LET YOU HELP ME DO THAT. AND MAYBE SOME OF YOUR AMENDMENTS WILL NOT BE AGREED TO BY EVERYBODY. THEN YOU'LL GO AROUND AND TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES, AS SENATORS ARE KNOWN TO DO, THE GOVERNOR TOLD ME I HAVE TO DO THIS, SO I'VE GOT TO DO IT. BUT IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR IT, THEN I'M NOT GOING TO BE UPSET WITH YOU. IN FACT, I HOPE YOU DON'T VOTE FOR IT. NO MAN COULD PUT ME IN A POSITION WHERE I HAVE TO BE SUCH A SNIVELING, WEAK-KNEED COWARD AS THAT, WHERE I'VE GOT TO SAY, I HAVE TO DO THIS, BUT DON'T DO IT, RESCUE ME BECAUSE I'M A COWARD. AS I TOLD YOU, OR EMERSON TOLD YOU AND I APPROPRIATED HIS WORDS, GOD DOES NOT MAKE HIS WORKS MANIFEST THROUGH COWARDS. SO WHOSE WORK ARE YOU DOING? I ADMIT, MY EXAMPLE FOR DOING WHAT I'M DOING IS THE DEVIL WHEN IT COMES TO DELIVERING ON A PROMISE. WHO ARE YOU SERVING WHEN YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON THE POOR, WHEN YOU DISREGARD THOSE WHO ARE SICK, WHOM WE COULD HELP, THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT SHELTER, WHOM WE COULD HELP? AND WE WON'T. YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT THAT. HOW CAN YOU, EVERY MORNING, HAVE SOMEBODY COME IN HERE AND SAY THIS THAT YOU ALL CALL A PRAYER? WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE YOU? YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD, BECAUSE, IF YOU DID, YOU'D KNOW HE'D STRIKE YOU DEAD FOR BLASPHEMY. WHY, IF THE BIBLE WAS RIGHT, YOUR TONGUE WOULD CLEAVE TO THE ROOF OF YOUR MOUTH AND YOUR ARM WOULD LOSE ITS STRENGTH. BUT THERE IS NOTHING IN THERE THAT YOU BELIEVE AND YOU KNOW IT. IT'S A FAIRY TALE TO TRY TO FRIGHTEN CHILDREN AND TO AMUSE AND ENTERTAIN OLD PEOPLE. THAT'S ALL THAT IT IS, AND YOU CANNOT SHOW ME OTHERWISE. YOU KNOW THAT I'M TELLING THE TRUTH. BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RESPOND TO IT. I WISH, FOR ONCE, A GOVERNOR WOULD COME HERE AND TELL THESE LEMMINGS, WE'RE GOING TO DO THE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO MAKE THIS SOCIETY IN NEBRASKA, IF NO PLACE ELSE, TRULY COMPASSIONATE AND CARING, AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE PEOPLE COME CRAWLING TO US ON THEIR KNEES AND SAY, LET ME SHOW YOU MY WOUNDS, I'VE GOT THREE LITTLE CHILDREN WHO ARE HOME, HUNGRY, AND A VERY SICKLY WIFE, AND I NEED A CRUST OF BREAD AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO PUT ANY BUTTER ON IT. SO SINCE GOD, JESUS, DELIVERED TO YOU YOUR DAILY BREAD, WOULD YOU GIVE ME JUST A LITTLE PIECE OF THAT DAILY BREAD THAT YOU SAID JESUS GAVE YOU. WHY DO YOU WANT TO DEGRADE AND DEBASE? THESE ARE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. AND YOU CAN LOOK AT THEM, YOU CAN BE COMFORTABLE IN THE PRESENCE OF THEIR MISERY AND THEIR PAIN AND THEN JESTINGLY SAY, I FEEL YOUR PAIN. WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE YOU? DO YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF THAT? WHAT DO YOU SEE WHEN YOU STAND IN FRONT OF THE MIRROR? YOU SEE SOMEBODY YOU LOVE BECAUSE YOU DON'T THINK ABOUT

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WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE. YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO WALL IT OFF AND YOU DON'T DEAL WITH IT. AND YOU GO WHERE THE LOBBYISTS FEED YOU AND TELL YOU HOW GREAT YOU ARE, GIVE YOU TRASH LEGISLATION TO COME IN HERE AND GRIND PEOPLE DOWN AND SAY, WELL, THE COUNTY USE IT. I DON'T REPRESENT A COUNTY. I DON'T REPRESENT COUNTY EMPLOYEES. I REPRESENT HUMAN BEINGS. AND BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I REPRESENT ANIMALS. I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY LIVING THING SUBJECTED TO CRUELTY, PAIN, TORTURE, SUFFERING. BUT IT DOESN'T BOTHER YOU ALL. AND WHAT I'M PUTTING ON YOU IS LIKE NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT YOU ALL PUT ON OTHER PEOPLE. AND WHY DID I SAY YOU PUT IT ON THEM? BECAUSE YOU COULD ALLEVIATE THEIR PROBLEMS AND YOU WON'T, SO YOU ARE AIDING AND ABETTING. AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT WHENEVER I FEEL LIKE IT ON THIS FLOOR AND AS LONG AS YOU ALL BRING SOME LONG COAT OR SHORT COAT UP THERE TO PRAY EVERY MORNING. YOU KNOW WHAT THE U.S. SUPREME COURT TOLD ME ABOUT THAT? SINCE IT'S IN A SETTING LIKE THIS, THE PRAYERS DON'T MEAN A THING; THEY HAVE NO RELIGIOUS CONTENT WHATSOEVER; THEY'RE PURELY CEREMONIAL. SO THAT'S WHY I SAY, INSTEAD OF THE NAME OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST--YOU DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE FOR REAL OR NOT. YOU OUGHT TO SAY, IN THE NAME OF GOOFY, DONALD DUCK, AND MICKEY MOUSE, BECAUSE AT LEAST YOU'VE SEEN PICTURES OF THEM. YOU CAN SEE REPRESENTATIONS OF THEM AT DISNEYLAND. SHOW ME YOUR GOD. SHOW ME YOUR FATHER. SHOW ME YOUR SON. SHOW ME YOUR HOLY GHOST. WHEN I WAS GOING TO THAT JESUIT SCHOOL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY WERE TEACHING PEOPLE? THAT A THING IS MANIFESTED THROUGH ITS OPERATIONS. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YOU KNOW HOW YOUR GOD FUNCTIONS? THROUGH YOU. YOU ARE HIS ARMS; YOU ARE HIS LEGS; YOU ARE HIS FEET; YOU ARE HIS HEART; YOU ARE WHAT HE IS. HE CANNOT DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN THROUGH YOU. AND WHAT DID HE TELL YOU TO DO? TO LOVE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS AND TAKE CARE OF THEM. YOU'RE STRONG, THEN BEAR THE INFIRMITIES OF THE WEAK. YOU HAVE GOT PLENTY TO EAT. SHARE IT WITH THOSE WHO HAVE NOTHING. THOSE ARE JUST WORDS. THEN YOU GET UPSET BECAUSE I PAID ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU SAY. AND THEN I SEE THAT YOUR CONDUCT DOESN'T MEASURE UP TO WHAT YOU SAY. I DIDN'T YOU TELL YOU TO SAY IT. I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU FROM IT YOURSELF BY SAYING, STOP SAYING IT, STOP THE BLASPHEMY, STOP THE SACRILEGIOUSNESS, STOP THE HYPOCRISY. BUT YOU WON'T, SO I'LL HAVE PLENTY TO TALK ABOUT. [LB88]

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SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. NOW IF WHAT I'M SAYING IS WRONG, AND YOUR GOD IS WHAT YOU SAY YOUR GOD IS, WHY WON'T YOUR GOD MANIFEST HIMSELF BY STRIKING ME DEAD? WHY NOT? COULD IT BE THAT I'M COMING CLOSER TO WHAT OUGHT TO BE SAID THAN ANYTHING YOU SAY OR DO? YOU ALL WILL GO SOMEPLACE AND EAT WITH THE LOBBYISTS AND MAYBE DRINK WITH THEM THIS AFTERNOON. THAT'S WHAT YOU DO. THIS THAT WE DO OVER HERE IS PLAYTIME FOR YOU. SOME OF YOU ARE GOING TO USE IT AS A STEPPING STONE TO TRY TO GET A HIGHER POLITICAL OFFICE. OTHERS OF YOU WANT TO BE INTERVIEWED ON THE RADIO. WHY, JUST THIS MORNING, I WAS WATCHING CHANNEL 6 NEWS AND SOME GUY NAMED...FROM KFAB SAID THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE A YOUNG SENATOR NAMED LARSON ON THERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING OR OTHER BECAUSE HE HAS INTRODUCED A WHOLE LOT OF BILLS. KFAB, WHY, WHEN YOU MAKE TO IT KFAB, YOU HAVE ARRIVED. BUT I CALL IT "KKKFAB," AND THE "KKK" STANDS FOR KU KLUX KLAN. AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE GOING TO BE...YOU ALL BE LISTENING AND I'M GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT IT. AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN HERE. YOU CAN LEAVE THE FLOOR WHENEVER YOU WANT TO. BUT, FORTUNATELY, WHAT IS SAID ON THIS FLOOR GOES EVERYWHERE. I GOT A QUESTION TO ASK, BUT I DON'T LOOK FOR AN ANSWER. SENATOR FISCHER IN WASHINGTON SAID THAT GUY OUGHT TO QUIT ON THE SCHOOL BOARD, STATE SCHOOL BOARD. HIS COLLEAGUES ARE SAYING HE OUGHT TO QUIT. THE OMAHA SCHOOL BOARD SAID HE OUGHT TO QUIT. THE OMAHA CITY COUNCIL SAID HE OUGHT TO QUIT. WHY, EVEN OLD RICKETTS OVER THERE SAID HE OUGHT TO QUIT. EVERYBODY SAYS HE OUGHT TO QUIT, EXCEPT THE LEGISLATURE. WHEN ARE YOU ALL GOING TO GET ON THE BANDWAGON? DO YOU HEAR ME? WHEN ARE YOU ALL GOING TO SAY HE OUGHT TO QUIT? YOU WON'T. YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE HE SPOKE WHAT YOU THINK. HE TOOK YOUR SECRET THOUGHTS AND PUT IT OUT THERE FOR THE PUBLIC AND SHOWED EVERYBODY EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE. I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE. YOU KNOW WHY I KNOW WHAT YOU ARE? THEY CAN SAY OF ME IN THIS CONTEXT WHAT THEY SAID OF JESUS: HE HAD NO NEED THAT ANYBODY SPEAK TO HIM OF MAN FOR HE KNEW WHAT WAS IN MAN. I KNOW WHAT'S IN YOU, AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOU. AND DO I KNOW IT BECAUSE I READ MINDS? I'M NOT THAT DEEP. I JUST READ YOUR ACTIONS AND YOUR INACTION. AND THERE WILL COME A TIME WHEN THERE IS GOING TO BE SOME ISSUE YOU ALL ARE GOING TO STAND UP HERE AND TALK ABOUT THE POOR, THE SICK, BECAUSE IT'S AN ISSUE YOU WANT. BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK ARE NOT SICK ONLY WHEN YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT THEM. THOSE WHO ARE POOR ARE NOT POOR ONLY WHEN YOU WANT TO HOLD THEM UP ON A BANNER AND WAVE THEM LIKE A BLOODY SHIRT. THE

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HOMELESS REMAIN HOMELESS. BUT YOU CAN COMPARTMENTALIZE AND SAY, ON THIS OCCASION, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THAT; OVER HERE, THIS; OVER THERE, THE OTHER. BUT I SEE IT ALL THE TIME, AND BECAUSE THIS LEGISLATURE HAS THE POWER, I'M GOING TO TRY TO STIR YOUR MINDS INTO DOING WHAT YOU TOOK AN OATH TO DO. AND WHETHER YOU KNOW IT OR NOT, THAT OATH INCLUDES THE REQUIREMENT THAT YOU TAKE THAT OATH WITHOUT MENTAL RESERVATION. THAT MEANS YOU ARE NOT ADDING A LOT OF PROVISOS... [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...ACCORDING TO WHICH YOU WILL NOT ADHERE TO THAT OATH AS YOU SHOULD. BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WERE A WHOLE LOT OF MENTAL RESERVATIONS TAKEN AROUND HERE. NOW I WON'T SWEAR. I WILL AFFIRM, BECAUSE THAT'S ONE OF THE CEREMONIES. JUST LIKE YOUR RELIGION, WHEN YOU HAD THAT PREACHER COME UP HERE, IT'S ALL CEREMONIAL, HAS NO RELIGIOUS CONTENT. SO WHY DO YOU CARE IF I TALK ABOUT IT? WHY WOULD YOU CARE IF I RIDICULE IT? WHY DO YOU CARE IF I MOCK IT? THE SUPREME COURT TOLD ME WHAT IT IS AND YOU ALL HAVE NOT DISAGREED WITH IT. BECAUSE, IF YOU DARE TO SAY THAT IT HAS ANY RELIGIOUS CONTENT, YOU'D BE VIOLATING THE SEPARATION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE. SO YOU'D RATHER TELL A LIE SO YOU CAN KEEP DOING RELIGIOUS THINGS BY SAYING THEY ARE NOT RELIGIOUS. SO WHAT VALUE IS IT? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YOU LIE IN ORDER TO DO IT, SO WHERE IS THE VALUE IN THAT? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS BILL BEFORE US WOULD RAISE A TAX. I WAS TRYING TO FIND SOMEBODY WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE IN RAISING TAXES. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR McCOLLISTER A QUESTION. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB88]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: YES, SIR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: SENATOR McCOLLISTER, WHEN A STATE OR ANY ENTITY THAT HAS THE POWER TO COERCE OBEDIENCE IMPOSES OR EXTRACTS FROM A PERSON MONEY AND IT'S NOT IN EXCHANGE FOR SOMETHING OF VALUE, TANGIBLE VALUE, IS THAT A TAX? [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WE RECEIVE VALUE FOR OUR TAXES. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU. SO YOU TELL ME WHAT A TAX IS THEN. [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: A TAX IS WHAT YOU HAVE FOR A CIVILIZED SOCIETY. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IT'S WHAT YOU HAVE FOR A CIVILIZED SOCIETY? THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE LAWS FOR, FOR A CIVILIZED SOCIETY. THAT'S NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH. GIVE ME SOMETHING THAT DESCRIBES TAXES, BUT WON'T DESCRIBE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE. WHAT IS A TAX? [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: A TAX... [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: IF...NO, IF YOU DON'T...IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, I DON'T WANT TO PUSH YOU ON THAT. [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: I KNOW WHAT A TAX IS. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: OH, TELL ME. [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: AND I'M SURE WE ALL, IN THIS BODY, KNOW WHAT A TAX IS, SIR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT THAT DOESN'T... [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: A TAX IS WHAT WE PAY TO FINANCE GOVERNMENT AT VARIOUS LEVELS, COUNTIES, STATE, AND OUR FEDERAL. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND DO WE DO IT VOLUNTARILY? [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: WELL, IF...YEAH. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: LET ME PUT IT LIKE THIS: DO WE DO IT ONLY IF WE DO IT VOLUNTARILY? [LB88]

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SENATOR McCOLLISTER: NO. WE ARE OBLIGATED TO PAY OUR TAXES. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: AND THAT'S WHY I USE THE TERM "COERCIVE." THANK YOU. IS THIS THAT WE'RE DOING HERE TODAY...SENATOR McCOLLISTER, I'M NOT THROUGH. I THANKED YOU FOR WHAT YOU SAID UP TO THEN. IS THIS A TAX? [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: A FISCAL TAX? [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. THIS BILL, IS THIS BILL RAISING A TAX? [LB88]

SENATOR McCOLLISTER: IT IS HARD TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN A FEE AND A TAX. I KNOW SOME FOLKS DO THAT. I'LL GRANT YOU THAT IN OPERATION IT'S THE SAME. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. WHAT SENATOR McCOLLISTER SAID IN HIS PHILOSOPHICAL WAY, AS PHILOSOPHERS WILL DO, IS THIS IS A TAX. IT'S LIKE THAT LADY SAID ABOUT A ROSE IS A ROSE, IS A ROSE: A TAX IS A TAX, IS A TAX. YOU ALL ARE RAISING A TAX. WHAT OTHER TAX WILL YOU RAISE BY OVER 300 PERCENT? ARE YOU GOING TO SAY, WELL, IF IT'S A LITTLE TAX, IT'S ALL RIGHT? THEN YOUR NOTION ABOUT TAXATION IS NOT PURE, IS IT? IT'S UTILITARIAN LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE. AND IF YOU CAN LAY IT ON SOMEBODY WHO CAN'T SPEAK, YOU HAVE THE PHILOSOPHY OF ONE OF THOSE FAMOUS LONG--THAT'S THE NAME OF THEM--LONG POLITICIANS IN LOUISIANA: DON'T TAX YOU, DON'T TAX ME, TAX THAT FELLOW BEHIND THE TREE. AND THAT'S WHAT YOU ALL ARE DOING TODAY. THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE DOING. SENATOR KUEHN, SENATOR...WELL, I DON'T HAVE TO LOOK AT THEM. I CAN JUST GO DOWN THE LIST AND TELL ALL OF YOU THAT YOU ARE RAISING A TAX. BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO CALL IT THAT. BUT YOU WON'T DO IT WITH REGARD TO ANYTHING ELSE. BUT I'M GOING TO TRY TO SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELVES. I TALKED ABOUT YOUR VOICES GETTING WEAKER. I THINK I DETECT A BIT OF WEAKNESS IN MYSELF. I DO. I'M FEELING...I'M STARTING TO FEEL IT NOW. SENATOR CAMPBELL, MY KNEES ARE GETTING A LITTLE SHAKY AND I DON'T THINK I COULD HOLD MY HAND STEADY, SHAKING LIKE A LEAF. IN FACT, I GO SO FAR AS TO SAY I DETECT A DISTURBANCE IN THE FORCE, AND THAT'S DANGEROUS. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (LAUGH) I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M HAVING FUN. I ENJOY BEING IN THE LEGISLATURE. THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT I FEEL ALIVE. AND YOU ARE SAYING, THESE ARE THE TIMES THAT TRY MEN AND

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WOMEN'S SOULS. I CAN READ YOUR MINDS. AND IF I'M NOT READING EXACTLY WHAT IS IN YOUR MIND, I'M GIVING YOU THE WORDS TO APPLY TO WHAT IS IN YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW. YOU CAN HAVE FUN JUST LIKE I'M HAVING. THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE TO DO. I HAVEN'T SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO SHAKE SENATOR BLOOMFIELD FROM SUPPORTING THE POSITION THAT I'M ADVOCATING. I WAS TRYING TO THINK OF SOMETHING I COULD SAY TO SHAKE HIM OFF SO THAT ALL THE VOTES WILL BE AGAINST ME. THEN I WILL FEEL LIKE I HAVE DONE SOMETHING, THAT I'VE FAILED SOMEWHERE, WHICH SHOWS THAT NOBODY IS PERFECT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: (INAUDIBLE.) [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WAS THAT MY THIRD TIME? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: YOU'VE GOT TIME TO CLOSE. BUT, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB88]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. SENATOR CHAMBERS, THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO SWAY ME FROM THIS POSITION. A TAX BY ANY OTHER NAME IS JUST AS BITTER. A 300-PERCENT INCREASE IN ANY TAX, AS I SAID BEFORE, IS ASININE. THE FACT THAT WE ARE EVEN CONSIDERING AN INCREASE THAT LARGE SHOULD EMBARRASS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US. WE SHOULD NOT--WE MUST NOT--GO THAT ROUTE. GRANTED, THIS HASN'T BEEN INCREASED SINCE MAYBE 1995. I DOUBT THAT ANYONE IN THAT COURTHOUSE IS MAKING 300 PERCENT MORE THAN THEY WERE IN 1995. THE IDEA THAT THEY ARE BUSILY RUNNING AROUND THE COURTHOUSE, HUSTLING TO GET THE MARRIAGE LICENSE OUT--WE HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO TODAY, WE MUST GET THESE MARRIAGE LICENSES DONE, WE DO NOTHING BUT THAT ALL DAY. WELL, THEY'RE THERE COLLECTING THEIR SALARY. WHETHER THEY ARE PREPARING A MARRIAGE LICENSE, WHETHER THEY ARE MAKING A COPY OF A PIECE OF PAPER TO GIVE YOU, THEY GET PAID THE SAME. AN INCREASE OF THIS AMOUNT IS JUST FUNDAMENTALLY WRONG. AND, SENATOR CHAMBERS, AGAIN, YOU KNOW, IT'S MORE FUN WHEN YOU AND I AGREE THAN IT IS WHEN WE DON'T AGREE. BUT BOTH WILL OCCUR THIS SESSION, AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. BUT WITH THIS ONE, YOU'LL NOT BE ABLE TO SHAKE MY SUPPORT, AS MUCH AS YOU MIGHT ENJOY IT. AND I WOULD YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED 3:00. [LB88]

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: THERE IS A PROGRAM--THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD; THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN--IT'S CALLED JEOPARDY. AND THIS GUY NAMED JOHNNY, HE SAYS: THIS IS JEOPARDY, AND TODAY WE HAVE WITH US--AND HE MENTIONS THE THREE PEOPLE--AND NOW HERE IS ALEX TREBEK. AND ALEX WALKS OUT AND THE FIRST THING HE SAYS IS, THANK YOU, JOHNNY. SO THAT'S WHAT I SAY TO SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, JOHNNY. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHAT I SAY? I'M NOT GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND. I SAID I'M GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THESE 90 DAYS AND I SHALL. YESTERDAY WE DEALT WITH SOMETHING THAT "BROTHER" HAAR BROUGHT TO US, A VERY GOOD BILL, AND I THINK WE DID, BASICALLY, THE RIGHT THING. SO IF YOU PRESENT THE RIGHT THING, THEN I GO ALONG WITH YOUR PROGRAM. THIS IS WRONG. SO I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU DON'T GET TO ANY OF YOUR AMENDMENTS. AND HOW DO I DO THAT? BY TAKING WHATEVER TIME THAT I HAVE LEFT ON THIS RECONSIDERATION MOTION. AND IF AT SOME POINT THE SHERIFF FEELS THAT IT HAS TO BE INTERRUPTED SO THE CLERK CAN DISCHARGE WHATEVER DUTIES ARE REQUIRED, I'M NOT TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH THE OPERATION OF THE LEGISLATURE. SO IF THE PRESIDENT WOULD INDULGE ME LONG ENOUGH TO ASK A QUESTION OF THE CHAIR, MR. PRESIDENT, HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK THE CLERK WOULD NEED TO DO WHATEVER IS USUALLY DONE BEFORE WE RECESS? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ONE MINUTE IS ALL THAT IS NEEDED? OH, WELL, I CAN RELAX. I WAS WAITING TO EXHALE, AND NOW I HAVE DONE IT. DO I STILL HAVE MY CLOSE, MY CLOSING? [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: YOU ARE ON SENATOR BLOOMFIELD'S TIME. YOU HAVE ONE MINUTE AND THEN YOU MAY CLOSE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. YOU KNOW WHAT, IF I WAS A PERSON WHO PRAYS, I'D SAY MY PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED MORE SO THAN YOU ALL'S BECAUSE THINGS ARE GOING MY WAY THIS MORNING. I HAVE A WONDERFUL FEELING THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING MY WAY. AND SENATOR KRIST IS GOING TO HAVE HIS PRAYER ANSWERED, BECAUSE THE BILL IS GOING TO STAY ON GENERAL FILE AND THEY CAN DO ALL OF THEIR WORK BETWEEN NOW AND SELECT FILE. BUT IF IT IS PUT BACK ON THE AGENDA TOMORROW, IT WOULD BE LIKE LYNRYD SKYNYRD, OR WHOEVER IT WAS, SAID: SECOND VERSE, SAME AS THE FIRST. AND I'LL BE ABLE TO CARRY IT OUT BECAUSE I WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO GO REFRESH MYSELF. THESE OLD BONES CAN REST. THIS WEAKENING VOICE CAN REGAIN ITS STRENGTH AND

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THAT TIMBRE THAT IT'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE. AND WE'LL DO AGAIN TOMORROW WHAT WE HAVE DONE TODAY, AND WE'LL DO IT AGAIN THE NEXT DAY. AND YOU CAN THANK YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR YOUR COUNTY BOARDS OR WHOEVER PUT YOU UP TO DOING THIS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. NOW YOU HAVE PUT ME IN A QUANDARY. SHOULD I BAIL OUT BEFORE I FINISH WHAT I HAVE TO SAY? I SHALL NOT, BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE TO ADJOURN OR RECESS AT ANY GIVEN TIME. WE CAN JUST GO ON AND ON AND ON AND ON, ON AND ON AND ON AND ON. AND I LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT. I THINK THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WONDER IF I MEAN WHAT I SAY WHEN I SAY SOME OF THE KIND OF THINGS I DO ON A BILL LIKE THIS. I DRAW ANALOGIES FROM THE WAY COURTS AND JUDGES OPERATE. I THINK, SINCE THE CONSTITUTION MAKES THE DOORS TO THE COURTHOUSE OPEN TO EVERYBODY FOR SETTLEMENT OF YOUR GRIEVANCES, IF YOU COME THERE BECAUSE YOU GOT A TRAFFIC TICKET THAT YOU THINK YOU OUGHT NOT AND I'M THE JUDGE, I SHOULD EXTEND AS MUCH COURTESY TO YOU AS I WOULD TO WARREN BUFFETT. I SHOULD TAKE AS MUCH CARE IN APPLYING THE LAW IN YOUR LITTLE CASE AS I DO WITH THE BIG CASES THAT FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JON BRUNING WAS HANDLING FOR THESE COMPANIES THAT NOW HE IS GOING TO LOBBY FOR. I SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THE LAW IS AS FAIR TO YOU AS IT IS TO ANY BIG SHOT WHO COMES TO COURT. IN OTHER WORDS, THERE SHOULD BE EQUALITY OF DIGNITY IN THE COURTHOUSE, IN THE COURTROOM, WHICH THERE IS NOT. THERE SHOULD BE EQUAL JUSTICE DISPENSED, AND THAT MEANS GIVING TO EACH PERSON WHAT HE OR SHE IS DUE UNDER THE LAW. AND THAT'S WHAT DUE PROCESS MEANS. IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE METHODOLOGY, THE PROCEDURES MUST BE GONE THROUGH THAT ARE REQUIRED TO PROPERLY HANDLE A CASE FOR WARREN BUFFETT. IT SHOULD APPLY TO THE HUMBLEST PERSON WHO COMES THERE, THE MOST VULNERABLE, THE VOICELESS, THE FRIENDLESS. BUT THOSE ARE THE ONES THAT ARE THROWAWAY PEOPLE, EVEN TO YOU ALL. THIS LEGISLATURE THROWS PEOPLE LIKE THAT AWAY EVERY DAY, OVER AND OVER AND OVER. AND WHEN YOU DO WRONGFUL THINGS TO HELPLESS PEOPLE, IT MIGHT BOTHER YOU AT FIRST. THEN IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY EASY. THEN, NOT ONLY IS IT EASY, IT'S DEMANDED OF YOU, BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME: ONE WHO IS STRONG AND BRAVE AND BOLD AND COURAGEOUS WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH THE HELPLESS AND THE VULNERABLE. IT MAY HAVE BEEN SHAKESPEARE WHO SAID, OH, IT IS WONDERFUL TO HAVE THE STRENGTH OF A GIANT, BUT IT IS TYRANNICAL TO USE IT LIKE A GIANT. WHAT

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VALUE ARE ALL THOSE FINE-SOUNDING WORDS? IF IT'S ON AN EXAMINATION, SOMEBODY PASSES THE EXAMINATION, AND THAT'S AS FAR AS IT GOES. BUT I'M GLAD THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT LANGUAGE, WHO CARE ABOUT IDEAS, WHO CARE ABOUT PRINCIPLES, AND THEY WILL TAKE THE TIME TO COMMIT THOSE IDEAS TO WRITING, SO THAT OTHER PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THOSE THINGS, BUT DON'T HAVE THE WHEREWITHAL TO CLOTHE THEM IN LANGUAGE IN THIS FASHION, WILL HAVE SOME PLACE THEY CAN GO TO AND SAY, THAT'S JUST WHAT I WAS THINKING BUT I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THERE IS A VALUE TO THAT. I VALUE THOSE THINGS, BUT I VALUE MORE THE PEOPLE. AND YOU ALL DON'T, AND YOU CANNOT PROVE ME WRONG. SO I HAVE ABOUT 55 SECONDS LEFT. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, A HARD LIFE MAKES A HARD MAN. BUT BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN SO FAITHFUL AND LOYAL, IN HONOR TO YOU AND YOUR LOYALTY, I AM NOT GOING TO TAKE ALL OF THE TIME THAT I HAVE LEFT. SO I WILL STOP NOW. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU SENATOR CHAMBERS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING TO THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE RECONSIDER OF THE MOTION BE ADOPTED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR...THERE HAS BEEN A...SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB88]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I WOULD LIKE A CALL OF THE HOUSE AND A ROLL CALL VOTE. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL THE HOUSE GO UNDER CALL? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: 25 AYES, 1 NAY, MR. PRESIDENT, TO PLACE THE HOUSE UNDER CALL. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATORS, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. UNAUTHORIZED PERSONNEL PLEASE LEAVE THE FLOOR. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. SENATOR HOWARD, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR BAKER, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR BURKE HARR, PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHAMBER AND RECORD YOUR PRESENCE. THE HOUSE IS UNDER CALL. MEMBERS, THE VOTE IS, SHALL THE VOTE LAST TAKEN BE RECONSIDERED? THERE HAS BEEN A

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Floor Debate
January 28, 2015

REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. MR. CLERK, PLEASE READ THE ROLL. [LB88]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGE 329.) 5 AYES, 34 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO RECONSIDER. [LB88]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION FAILS. RAISE THE CALL. ITEMS, MR. CLERK. [LB88]

CLERK: I DO, MR. PRESIDENT. CONFIRMATION REPORTS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE. THAT'S OFFERED BY SENATOR SULLIVAN AS CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE. YOUR COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REPORTS LB18 TO GENERAL FILE; LB109, GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS. BANKING REPORTS LB198 TO GENERAL FILE. GENERAL AFFAIRS, CHAIRMAN SENATOR LARSON REPORTS LB118 AND LB269 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS, ALL SIGNED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS. HEARING NOTICE FROM NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, THOSE AGAIN SIGNED BY THEIR CHAIRPERSONS. CONFIRMATION REPORT FROM BANKING. SENATOR LARSON WOULD LIKE TO PUT ON AMENDMENTS TO LB111, LB619, LB330, AND SENATOR SCHUMACHER TO LB88 AND SENATOR KINTNER TO LB88. I ALSO HAVE NAME ADDS: SENATORS HUGHES, DAVIS, SCHEER, MURANTE, STINNER, WILLIAMS TO LB187; SENATOR SCHILZ, LB187; TO LR23, SENATORS DAVIS, FRIESEN, KOLTERMAN, JOHNSON, GROENE, BLOOMFIELD, AS WELL AS BAKER, KUEHN, WILLIAMS, HILKEMANN, McCOY, HUGHES, STINNER, McCOLLISTER, SCHNOOR, EBKE, CRAIGHEAD, LINDSTROM, PANSING BROOKS, BOLZ, GLOOR, KINTNER, SCHUMACHER, KEN HAAR, HADLEY, KRIST, KOLOWSKI, SCHILZ, MURANTE, BRASCH, SULLIVAN, CRAWFORD, SMITH, LARSON, SEILER; SENATOR KUEHN AND LARSON TO LB187; SENATOR KINTNER TO LB118; AND SENATORS COASH, MURANTE, SCHILZ, LARSON TO LB31. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 329-334.) [LB18 LB109 LB198 LB118 LB269 LB111 LB619 LB330 LB88 LB187 LR23 LB31]

PRIORITY MOTION: SPEAKER HADLEY WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, AT 9:00 A.M.

SENATOR COASH: MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR SAY AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED.