

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

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

[LB32 LB70 LB70A LB72 LB106 LB128 LB136 LB245 LB268 LB320A LB320 LB431
LB472A LB473 LB500 LB538A LB538 LB546 LB598 LR35 LR41 LR157]

SENATOR COASH PRESIDING

SENATOR COASH: GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. WELCOME TO THE GEORGE W. NORRIS LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER FOR THE FIFTY-THIRD DAY OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION. OUR CHAPLAIN FOR TODAY IS PASTOR KENNETH MILLER OF AUBURN, SENATOR WATERMEIER'S DISTRICT. PLEASE RISE.

PASTOR MILLER: (PRAYER OFFERED.)

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, PASTOR. I CALL TO ORDER THE FIFTY-THIRD 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 ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW REPORTS LB538, LB538A, LB320, LB320A, AND LB500 TO SELECT FILE, SOME OF THOSE HAVING ENROLLMENT AND REVIEW AMENDMENTS. MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE AN AMENDMENT TO LB32 FROM SENATOR MELLO TO BE PRINTED. I HAVE THE REPORT OF REGISTERED LOBBYISTS THIS WEEK REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE INSERTED IN THE LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL, AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REPORTS RECEIVED FROM VARIOUS STATE AGENCIES AVAILABLE FOR MEMBER REVIEW ON THE LEGISLATIVE WEB SITE. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 995-997.) [LB538 LB538A LB320 LB320A LB500 LB32]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

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

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LB70A IS A BILL BY SENATOR SCHUMACHER. (READ TITLE.) [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LB70A. [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. LB70A IS THE A BILL THAT GOES WITH THE BILL THAT WE ADVANCED A COUPLE DAYS AGO REGARDING TAXATION OF ILLEGAL GAMING MACHINES. IT IS A GUESSTIMATE OF WHAT THE TAX COMMISSIONER MIGHT INCUR AS COST IN EXAMINING THE APPLICATIONS. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO LB70A. THOSE WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS McCOY, SMITH, AND JOHNSON. SENATOR McCOY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I WANTED TO BE FIRST TO HIT MY LIGHT THIS MORNING. IN DAY TWO OF WHAT I SAID I WOULD DO YESTERDAY AND I'M FOLLOWING THROUGH ON. I'M SURE MANY OF YOU HAVE HEARD THE RESPONSE IN THE PUBLIC ABOUT SENATOR CHAMBERS' REMARKS ON FRIDAY IN THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND HIS FOLLOW-UP REMARKS ON THE FLOOR HERE YESTERDAY. AND I WANT TO READ INTO THE RECORD SOME STATEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE BY SOME OFFICIALS HERE IN THE STATE. FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL DOUG PETERSON, QUOTE, SENATOR CHAMBERS' RECENT COMMENTS COMPARING LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS, HIS ISIS, AND THAT HE WOULD SHOOT A POLICE OFFICER AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER, ARE ABSOLUTELY THE MOST OFFENSIVE STATEMENT I HAVE EVER HEARD MADE BY A PUBLIC OFFICIAL. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE EVERY DAY TO PROTECT ALL OF US. BOTH THE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES DESERVE OUR UTMOST RESPECT, APPRECIATION, AND SUPPORT. THEY ALSO DESERVE AN APOLOGY FROM CHAMBERS. OMAHA MAYOR JEAN STOTHERT: SENATOR CHAMBERS' ATTACK ON POLICE OFFICERS SHOWS TOTAL DISREGARD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY. WHY WOULD ANY ELECTED OFFICIAL STATE IF HE HAD A GUN HE WOULD SHOOT A POLICE OFFICER? THE SENATOR SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY, NOT COMPARING POLICE OFFICERS TO TERRORISTS. HE OWES AN APOLOGY NOT ONLY TO OMAHA POLICE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

OFFICERS BUT TO EVERY CITIZEN OF OMAHA. OMAHA POLICE CHIEF TODD SCHMADERER: THE COMMENTS THAT ERNIE CHAMBERS MADE TODAY AT THE NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL WERE NOT ONLY THE MOST REPREHENSIBLE BUT ARE COMPLETELY WITHOUT MERIT. THE COMMENTS ARE UNBECOMING OF A STATE LEGISLATOR AND HAVE BROUGHT NO VALUE TO THE DISCUSSION OF POLICE COMMUNITY RELATIONS. I STAND WITH MY OMAHA POLICE OFFICERS AS THEY ARE HARDWORKING, DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS. FBI SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE THOMAS METZ, OMAHA DIVISION: ALTHOUGH THE FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTS FREE SPEECH, IT IS BOTH IRRESPONSIBLE AND UNFORTUNATE THAT SOMEONE WOULD MAKE A STATEMENT CONCERNING VIOLENCE AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THIS WEEK ALONE SEVERAL OFFICERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY. FROM NEBRASKA DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN VINCE POWERS: SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS WERE VERY OFFENSIVE TO THOSE WHO GO IN HARM'S WAY FOR US AND ALL NEBRASKANS. SENATOR CHAMBERS TRIVIALIZES THE HORRORS COMMITTED BY ISIS, WHO BEHEAD INNOCENTS, MURDER CHILDREN, AND COMMIT HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY. I HOPE THAT EVERY NEBRASKAN WILL JOIN ME IN CONDEMNING HIS REMARKS. THOSE, MEMBERS, ARE JUST A FEW OF THE PUBLIC COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE YESTERDAY. IN THE LAST 48 HOURS, I TALKED ABOUT ONE OF THEM. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO POLICE OFFICERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT HAVE BEEN SHOT AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. STATE TROOPER TREVOR CASPER, 21 YEARS OLD, OF KIEL, WISCONSIN, ONLY BEEN ON THE JOB THREE MONTHS. THIS WAS HIS FIRST SOLO DAY ON THE JOB, NIGHT BEFORE LAST. SAN JOSE POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL JOHNSON, SHOT AND KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, 14 YEARS ON THE POLICE FORCE IN SAN JOSE. WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID, IN MY VIEW, AND HAS DOUBLED DOWN ON SINCE, IS A PUBLIC SAFETY RISK TO THE PEOPLE OF NEBRASKA AND TO THOSE WHO WEAR A UNIFORM. HOW MANY SPOUSES, HOW MANY KIDS... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR McCOY: ...GOT LESS SLEEP LAST NIGHT AFTER THEY KISSED OR HUGGED THEIR FAMILY MEMBER WHO PUT ON A UNIFORM TO PROTECT US AND HAD TO WORRY, HAVE ADDED WORRY ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEIR LOVED ONE WOULD COME HOME? THOSE THAT WEAR A UNIFORM IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN NEBRASKA AND THEIR FAMILIES DESERVE A STRONG DENOUNCEMENT FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS, AN APOLOGY, AS MUCH FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AS THEY DO PERSONALLY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOY. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR SMITH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR SMITH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I HAVE STOOD UP TO SPEAK ON LB70 BEFORE, AND I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LB70. BUT MY REAL REASON FOR RISING THIS MORNING AND STANDING IS TO STAND WITH SENATOR McCOY IN HIS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER REMARKS MADE BY SENATOR CHAMBERS LAST WEEK DURING A JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING. I HAVE GREAT RESPECT FOR SENATOR CHAMBERS, AS I DO EACH OF MY COLLEAGUES. EACH OF YOU WERE ELECTED TO REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITIES, AND ALL NEBRASKANS. HOWEVER, THE WORDS SPOKEN WITH REGARD TO VIOLENCE AGAINST OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE. WHETHER THE THREAT WAS IN CONTEXT AND REAL, OR OUT OF CONTEXT AND PERCEIVED, WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, COLLEAGUES, TO NOT UNDERCUT CIVIL DISCOURSE, BE IT INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY, BUT RATHER TO SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN OUR SAFE COMMUNITIES. AND THOSE SAFE COMMUNITIES ARE LOCAL, ACROSS THE STATE, AND NATIONALLY. WE HAVE THAT OBLIGATION. I HOPE OTHERS WILL JOIN US IN THIS CLARIFICATION AND SHOW BOTH OUR GRATITUDE AND SUPPORT FOR THOSE THAT SERVE TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES. FURTHERMORE, I HOPE WE WILL STAND WITH THOSE BEING THREATENED AND VICTIMIZED BY ISIS TERRORISTS ABROAD, ESPECIALLY THE CHRISTIANS AND THE INNOCENT THAT ARE BEING TARGETED. THERE ARE SIMPLY NO COMPARISONS IN OUR SOCIETY TO THE BARBARIC ATTACKS BY ISIS. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB70 LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SMITH. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JOIN IN THE COMMENTS THAT SENATOR McCOY AND SENATOR SMITH HAVE MADE. I, TOO, HAVE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE. I'M NOT OF THE LEGAL MIND, SO I'M NOT SURE WHAT AVENUES TO PURSUE. ALL I CAN DO IS SPEAK ON THIS FLOOR. I WAS ABLE TO GO HOME EARLY ENOUGH LAST NIGHT TO ATTEND A MIDWEEK CHURCH SERVICE DURING LENT. THAT WAS THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE ASKED ME AS I WALKED IN THE DOOR, ABOUT THE SITUATION THAT'S COME UP IN THE LAST 48 HOURS. PHONE CALLS THIS MORNING HAVE TOTALLY SURROUNDED MY OFFICE. I THINK IT'S KIND OF IRONIC TODAY AS WE DISCUSS THIS BEFORE WE GET TO THE BALANCE OF THE AGENDA THAT THE FIRST ITEM ON FINAL READING IS REPEAL OF THE PRAIRIE DOG BILL ACT. I UNDERSTAND AND WHEN

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

IT WENT THROUGH THE COMMITTEE THERE'S SOME CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES WITH IT, AND I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY WHY IT'S MOVED THE WAY IT HAS. BUT IT KIND OF ALARMS ME AND CONCERNS ME THAT WE SPEND MORE TIME TALKING ABOUT SAVING THE PRAIRIE DOG AND THEN NOW WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT STATEMENTS THAT ARE MADE TOWARD OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS. IT'S A DEEP CONCERN. I, TOO, HOPE OTHERS WILL JOIN IN THIS CONVERSATION. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR CRAIGHEAD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR CRAIGHEAD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I STAND WITH MY FELLOW SENATORS IN SUPPORT OF OUR POLICE OFFICERS. HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO TODAY IF YOU'RE INTERESTED. AT THE END OF THE MORNING SESSION, IN THE ROTUNDA, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A PHOTO AND WE'RE GOING TO HOLD SUPPORT BLUE SIGNS. I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE WHO WORK AND FIGHT EVERY DAY TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS. AGAIN, RIGHT AFTER SESSION IN THE ROTUNDA. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CRAIGHEAD. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT I CANNOT LET AN OPPORTUNITY LIKE THIS GO BY WITHOUT SPEAKING. THE IRONY IS THAT WE WERE DISCUSSING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION YESTERDAY. AND NOT ONLY DO I HAVE THAT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, COLLEAGUES, BUT NOTHING SAID...IT SHOWS HOW IGNORANT PEOPLE ARE OUTSIDE THIS BODY, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE POLICE TALKING ABOUT SOME KIND OF LEGAL ACTION. NOBODY WHO IS INVOLVED IN A DISCUSSION OR ACTIVITY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LEGISLATURE IS SUBJECT TO ANY OF THIS KIND OF LEGAL ACTION THAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT. SO WHEN THOSE IDLE THREATS ARE MADE BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT, IT MAKES THE PERSON WHO MAKES THE THREAT FEEL GOOD. IT MAKES OTHER PEOPLE FEEL GOOD, BUT I'LL BET YOU NOT ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO STOOD ON THIS FLOOR HAS READ THE TRANSCRIPT, NOT ONE. I BET THEY HAVEN'T EVEN READ THE NEWSPAPER THIS MORNING TO SEE COMMENTS MADE BY PEOPLE WHO WERE AT THE COMMITTEE HEARING AND WHO WERE ON THE COMMITTEE. BUT THEY GET CARRIED AWAY

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

BY WHAT THEY HEAR ON TALK RADIO. AND SUCH BEING THE CASE, I CAN UNDERSTAND THE PATHETIC LEVEL OF DISCUSSION ON OCCASION, SINCE THAT'S THEIR SOURCE OF INFORMATION. BUT AS I SAID YESTERDAY, I WILL CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES THAT I THINK ARE IMPORTANT. I SHARED WITH THIS BODY, BUT I KNOW PEOPLE MAY NOT READ WHAT I HAND OUT. THE TWO OFFICERS IN LINCOLN FOUND GUILTY AS A RESULT OF AN INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATION OF USING EXCESSIVE FORCE, THEY QUIT SUDDENLY WITHOUT EXPLAINING WHY. ONE WAS IMMEDIATELY HIRED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY SHERIFF. THE OTHER WAS RECRUITED BY THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL, WHICH I THINK IS REPREHENSIBLE. SO THESE THINGS HAPPEN AND YOU ALL DON'T SEE THEM OR THEY MAKE YOU NO DIFFERENCE. BUT THEY DO MAKE ME A DIFFERENCE. I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ADDRESS THEM. I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. AND I WILL DO IT IN MY WAY. AND WITH REFERENCE TO THOSE PEOPLE THAT SENATOR McCOY QUOTED FROM, THEY DON'T COME TO HEARINGS. THEY DON'T READ TRANSCRIPTS. THEY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. SO I WILL QUOTE SOMETHING THAT I BELIEVE JONATHAN SWIFT OR DR. SAM JOHNSON SAID: YOU CAN TELL WHEN A GREAT MAN HAS ARRIVED ON THE SCENE BECAUSE THE DUNCES IMMEDIATELY FORM A CONFEDERACY AGAINST HIM. SO WHEN I SEE WHAT WISE PEOPLE HAVE SAID, AND THEIR WORDS PERFECTLY EMBRACE THE SITUATION, THAT IS SUFFICIENT. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THE TRANSCRIPT WILL BE AVAILABLE. READ IT. FORM YOUR OWN CONCLUSION. AND WHATEVER IT IS, HOLD TO THAT CONCLUSION. EXPRESS IT. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO. THERE ARE SENATORS ON THIS FLOOR WHO WILL TELL YOU THAT I ENCOURAGE THEM TO SPEAK WHATEVER THEIR OPINION IS, EVEN IF IT'S IN OPPOSITION TO ME BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT WE DO HERE. I'VE STATED THAT I GIVE IT, I CAN TAKE IT. ANYTHING I SAY OR DO IS VERY LIKELY TO CARRY CONSEQUENCES BECAUSE I DEAL WITH ISSUES OF CONSEQUENCE, AND I'M PREPARED TO ABIDE THOSE CONSEQUENCES. BUT I HAVE TO TELL YOU THIS, I'M GETTING A DIFFERENT TYPE OF PHONE CALL IN MY OFFICE THIS MORNING. AND IF THESE CALLS WERE MADE TO MY COLLEAGUES THEY WOULD REALIZE THAT WHAT THEY'RE HEARING ON TALK RADIO OR WHEREVER THEY'RE GETTING THEIR MISINFORMATION DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEW OF ALL PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THIS STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU. GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE. IN REFERENCE TO EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN SAID, YOU KNOW, I, TOO, DON'T TAKE MUCH ACCOUNT AT WHAT'S SAID ON THE RADIO AND WHAT'S SAID ON THE NEWS. I'VE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

LEARNED IN MY 20 YEARS IN THE MILITARY THAT IT'S WHAT WE IN THE MILITARY CALLED AMERICAN PROPAGANDA. THEY'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW. IT WON'T NECESSARILY BE A LIE, BUT IT WILL BE SPUN HOWEVER THEY LIKE IT, HOWEVER THEY LIKE IT TO LOOK. IT WAS BROUGHT UP BY SENATOR CHAMBERS ABOUT THE TRANSCRIPT. THERE'S A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT ON EVERYBODY'S DESK. IT'S A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT ON THE LEGISLATIVE BILL INTRODUCED BY TOMMY GARRETT. THERE'S NOT ONE PAGE THAT HAS BEEN REMOVED. THERE'S NOT BEEN ONE PAGE ADDED. THERE'S NOTHING HIGHLIGHTED. BUT ON PAGE 26, 27, AND 28 ARE THE EXACT WORDS THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS SAID. SO OUR DUTY AS A SENATE... YOU KNOW, I'M A NEW GUY HERE. I'VE BEEN HERE SINCE DECEMBER 12. BUT I HAVE THE SAME VOTE AS EVERYBODY ELSE. I HAVE THE SAME SAY AS EVERYBODY ELSE. SO I'M GOING TO GIVE MY OPINION. OUR DUTY, WE HAVE ONE CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATION AND ONE ONLY AND THAT'S TO PASS A BUDGET. THAT'S IT. BUT WE HAVE A DUTY OF ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, AND I'M DEMANDING THAT TODAY. I'M DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SENATOR CHAMBERS AND HIS ACTIONS. YOU CAN READ THE TRANSCRIPTS AND FORM YOUR OWN OPINION, AND I ASK YOU TO DO THAT. AND YOU'LL BE SWAYED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, AS I HAVE ALREADY BEEN SWAYED...OR NOT NECESSARILY SWAYED. I'VE BEEN ATTEMPTED TO BE SWAYED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. BUT I'M DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY. SO MY REQUEST TO YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, IS I'M ASKING FOR YOUR RESIGNATION EFFECTIVE CLOSE OF BUSINESS TODAY. NOW, YOU CAN SIT THERE AND LAUGH ALL YOU WANT BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU DO. YOU MAKE A MOCKERY OF EVERYBODY IN HERE. YOU MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE SENATE. YOU MAKE A MOCKERY OF SOMEBODY'S CHRISTIAN BELIEFS. BUT I, ALONG WITH SENATOR McCOY, AM GOING TO TAKE A STAND. SO I AM ASKING FOR YOUR RESIGNATION, IN WRITING, ON SENATOR HADLEY'S DESK BY 10:00 A.M. MONDAY MORNING. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER AND COLLEAGUES. THIS MORNING, I STAND DISMAYED, SADDENED, ANGERED, CONFUSED. BUT I, TOO, FEEL THAT...I HAVE THE TRANSCRIPT. IT IS NOT RIGHT TO COMPARE POLICE TO ISIS AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED. THE HORROR INTERNATIONALLY, THE THREAT WE HAVE TO OUR PEOPLE, AND ALSO IT IS DISRESPECT TO THOSE WHO HAVE PLEDGED THEIR LIVES TO CARRY OUT THOSE VERY LAWS THAT WE ENACT IN THIS CHAMBER. MY QUESTION IS, IF NOT FOR THE POLICE, WHO DO WE HAVE TO

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

CARRY OUT OUR LAWS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY? THEY TAKE ON THAT RESPONSIBILITY, AND THEY DO NOT TAKE IT ON LIGHTLY. AND YES, THERE HAVE BEEN SITUATIONS. I BELIEVE IN ANY OCCUPATION, ANY SERVICE, WHERE A SENATOR HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG, WHERE PERHAPS A POLICE OFFICER HAS DONE SOMETHING WRONG, A PUBLIC OFFICIAL. WE ARE HUMAN BEINGS. WE DO HAVE ERROR. SENATOR McCOY HAS ASKED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN APOLOGY. SOMETIMES APOLOGIES ARE HARD TO DO. SENATOR SCHNOOR HAS STOOD AND ASKED FOR A RESIGNATION. I'M NOT FROM OMAHA. I DID GET A CALL THIS MORNING FROM A CONSTITUENT JUST BEFORE I CAME TO THE FLOOR, ASKING ME IF I WOULD ASK FOR RESIGNATION, AND I CANNOT DO THAT BECAUSE I KNOW THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS BEEN A GREAT CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS INSTITUTION. WE HOLD HEARINGS IN THE SENATOR ERNIE CHAMBERS ROOM. HE HAS MADE A LOT OF WRONGS RIGHT, AND WE SHOULD PAY TRIBUTE AND RESPECT FOR THAT. BUT I AGREE, THIS IS WRONG. IT IS WRONG TO TAKE THOSE WHO ARE IN HARM'S WAY, HIGH RISK OF HARM'S WAY, AND PERHAPS MAKE IT EVEN A GREATER RISK TO THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. I WAS LOOKING AT AN ARTICLE OUT OF HILLSDALE COLLEGE THAT TALKS ABOUT LAWLESSNESS AND HOW SOCIETY TODAY TRIES TO NORMALIZE ILLEGAL ACTION TO THE POINT WHERE IT IS ACCEPTABLE. WE ARE AT FAULT HERE. I BELIEVE THAT AS THE YEARS, IN MY CASE, HAVE GONE BY, AND YOU HEAR TALES TOLD BY OTHERS HERE, AND SENATOR CHAMBERS WILL GET VERY LIVID, VERY ANGRY. HE IS VERY ARTICULATE. IT'S STORIES, WORDS THAT COULD BE IN SOME NOVEL, BUT THEY SHOULD NOT BE ON PUBLIC RECORD AND AT A PUBLIC HEARING. AND I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IS WITHOUT A HEART AND THAT HIS HEART IS SO CRUEL AS TO TRULY WISH THAT. I THINK AN APOLOGY WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR HIM, BUT I THINK IF HE THOUGHT ABOUT IT AND WHAT RISK, WHAT MESSAGE HE IS GIVING TO... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...THOSE IN HIS DISTRICT OF ACTIONS THEY COULD TAKE, WE SHOULD ALL BE PEACE OFFICERS HERE OF SOME SORT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. SENATOR BOLZ, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BOLZ: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WE ALL DO AS WE MUST IN THIS BODY, AND WE ALL DO WHAT WE THINK IS BEST FOR OUR DISTRICTS AND

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

REFLECTIVE OF THE VALUES THAT WE BRING INTO THIS BUILDING. I'VE BEEN ASKED BY MY CONSTITUENTS TO ARTICULATE MY SUPPORT FOR THE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO DO PROTECT MY COMMUNITY, AND I AM BLESSED AND PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN A COMMUNITY THAT HAS LOW VIOLENCE RATES AND HAS A DEGREE OF SAFETY AND I DO APPRECIATE THE PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO HELP MAKE THAT HAPPEN. BUT I ALSO THINK THAT THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO ELEVATE THIS CONVERSATION. AND I THINK IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL OF US TO STUDY THE BILLS THAT WILL BE COMING TO THE FLOOR THAT ADDRESS VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, THAT INCREASE OUR SUPPORT FOR FOLKS WHO ARE REENTERING SOCIETY AFTER LEAVING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, THAT INVEST IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES BECAUSE THE REAL ISSUE HERE, COLLEAGUES, IS MAKING SURE THAT OUR COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE, AND THAT THE PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFE HAVE THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO DO SO. SO, COLLEAGUES, I URGE YOU TO TAKE THIS ENERGY THAT'S ON THE FLOOR THIS MORNING AND USE IT TO STUDY AND UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT THE BILLS THAT WILL COME OUT AND MAKE OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE BETTER AND SERVE OUR PEOPLE BETTER. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BOLZ. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD; THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. WHAT A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO PILE ON TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. WHAT A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY WE HAVE TO DEFEND THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. I DO NOT CONDONE WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID. TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT OF HIM TO BE ABLE TO SAY IT. WE ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT WE WANT, THAT THOSE AMONG US, WHO IS WITHOUT SIN CAST THE FIRST STONE HERE. I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY IN THIS BODY THAT HASN'T AT ONE TIME SAID SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT. I'M GUILTY OF IT MORE THAN ONCE. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS DONE A GREAT SERVICE TO THIS BODY FOR 40 YEARS. WHETHER YOU LIKE WHAT HE SAID OR NOT, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY IT. I DON'T THINK YOU WILL FIND ANYBODY IN THIS BODY THAT IS MORE DEFENDING OF OUR MILITARY OR OF OUR POLICE THAN I AM. BUT THEY ARE THERE AS WE ARE TO DEFEND OUR LIBERTIES AND OUR RIGHTS. WE DEBATED YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE ABOUT A BILL THAT I FEEL WOULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY OR REDUCED ONE OF THOSE RIGHTS. IT JUST HAPPENS. IT WAS THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. WE'RE AGAIN HERE NOW ATTEMPTING TO CONDEMN A MAN FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

OF THOSE RIGHTS. LET US NOT RUSH TO JUDGMENT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR LINDSTROM, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR LINDSTROM: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. I APPRECIATE THE COMMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN STATED ON THE FLOOR TODAY. IN MY ABILITY OF FREE SPEECH, I'D JUST LIKE TO TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO ADDRESS WHAT HAS BEEN SAID. I FULLY SUPPORT OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN BLUE. I THINK THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS' LOOSE COMPARISON BETWEEN ISIS AND OUR POLICE OFFICERS IS MISGUIDED AT BEST, AND POTENTIALLY REPREHENSIBLE. I SIGNED ON AS A COSPONSOR OF LB268 TO REPEAL THE DEATH PENALTY FOR FINANCIAL REASONS AND SYSTEMATIC INEFFICIENCIES. WHILE I STILL BELIEVE THIS TO BE TRUE, IN LIGHT OF RECENT COMMENTS BY SENATOR CHAMBERS AND THE LACK OF APOLOGY AS CALLED FOR BY SENATOR BEAU McCOY, I'M GOING TO PULL MY NAME FROM THE SUPPORT OF LB268. I NO LONGER WANT MY NAME ASSOCIATED WITH A SENATOR WHO WOULD MAKE SUCH COMMENTS. THANK YOU. [LB70A LB268]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR LINDSTROM. SENATOR RIEPE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR RIEPE: MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU, AND, MEMBERS OF THIS AUGUST BODY. ON BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT 12, WHICH IS OMAHA AND RALSTON, I STAND IN BOTH DISAPPOINTMENT AND ANGER FOR THE COMMENTS OF SENATOR CHAMBERS. WE ARE A STATE OF CIVILITY AND A LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER OF CIVILITY. WE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AS A LEGISLATIVE BODY AND AS INDIVIDUAL PUBLIC SERVANTS. SENATOR CHAMBERS, THIS GOES BEYOND FREEDOM OF SPEECH. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR RIEPE. SENATOR KRIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES, AND GOOD MORNING, NEBRASKA. I'M GOING TO BE VERY BRIEF BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG MY VOICE IS GOING TO HOLD OUT. I'M EMBARRASSED THAT DURING THE HEARING I DIDN'T NUDGE SENATOR CHAMBERS AND EXPRESS MY DISAPPOINTMENT. AS I READ THE TRANSCRIPT, I DO SEE THAT THERE WERE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SOME OFFENSIVE THINGS SAID, AND HAVING BEEN IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD AND SEEING THE REALITY OF BEHEADING, I'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR 20-SOME YEARS FOR HIS RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HE'S GOING TO SAY. I'M CONFLICTED, BUT I'M ALSO REMINDED THAT I HAVE GIVEN LEEWAY TO 48 OTHERS TO EXPRESS THEIR FREE SPEECH. I'M NOT GOING TO PILE ON SENATOR CHAMBERS. I'M DISAPPOINTED IN MYSELF. BUT I WILL SAY THIS, THE NEXT TIME ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES MAKES A COMMENT ABOUT A RETARD, I'M GOING TO TAKE THE SAME REPREHENSIBLE TONE TOWARDS HIM THAT I'LL TAKE TOWARDS SENATOR CHAMBERS. BEING CIVIL IS PART OF FREE SPEECH, IN MY OPINION. THE CIVILITY THAT HAS BEEN ABSENT AT TIMES ON THIS FLOOR COMES FROM EMOTION. IT COMES FROM PASSION. IT COMES FROM SAYING THINGS THAT WE THINK WE NEED TO SAY TO MAKE OUR POINT. WELL, I NO LONGER WILL FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE I'VE NEVER OWNED A SLAVE. I WILL NO LONGER FEEL GUILTY BECAUSE OF MY RELIGION, BEING A ROMAN CATHOLIC, OR BEING ATTACKED BY SOMEONE ON THIS FLOOR FOR SOME SINS OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE PAST. I REGISTER WITH THIS BODY THIS MORNING MY DISCONTENT FOR MYSELF IN NOT TAKING SOME ACTION OR SPEAKING UP AT MANY TIMES IN THE SIX-PLUS YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN HERE. IT STOPS HERE FOR ME. THANK YOU, COLLEAGUES. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KRIST. SENATOR KEN HAAR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, FOR YOUR COMMENTS, AND YOU SORT OF GOT ME TO STAND UP AND SAY SOMETHING. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THIS IS A DIFFICULT DISCUSSION THIS MORNING, BUT IT'S PROBABLY GOOD WE'RE HAVING IT. OF COURSE, I SUPPORT THE POLICE, AND I KNOW THAT THE POLICE ARE ALSO HUMAN. DURING MY CAMPAIGNS, I'VE GOTTEN A LOT OF SUPPORT FROM THE POLICE UNIONS. BUT THEY'RE NOT RIGHT ALL THE TIME, AND WE ALL KNOW THAT. WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS HORRIFIC. WHAT'S GONE ON IN OUR PAST IN THIS COUNTRY IN TERMS OF SLAVERY AND OTHER THINGS HAS BEEN HORRIFIC. BUT I GUESS THE QUESTION THAT COMES UP IS DO WE STAND UP EVERY TIME WE HEAR SOMETHING THAT'S REPREHENSIBLE IN THIS BODY AND TAKE IT TO THE NEWSPAPERS AND SO ON AND SO FORTH? I'VE HEARD THE WORD LEACHES USED. AND I'M NOT GOING TO NAME WHO SAID THAT, BUT THAT WAS NAMED IN A COMMITTEE HEARING REFERRING TO PEOPLE WHO GET PUBLIC SUBSIDY. MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE STEPPED UP AT THAT TIME AND SAID SOMETHING AS WELL. WE SAW ON TELEVISION ADS A BOBBLEHEAD OF PRESIDENT OBAMA, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, KNOCKED OFF IN A

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

CAVALIER MANNER AND WE DIDN'T STEP UP AND SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THAT. I THINK WE NEED TO HAVE CIVILITY IN THIS BODY, AND PERHAPS WE SHOULD ALL CALL EACH OTHER MORE OFTEN WHEN THINGS THAT ARE SAID THAT ARE NOT CIVIL. BUT TO PILE ON TO ONE PERSON AND SAY THAT THEY'RE THE PERSON WHO'S THE DEVIL IN THIS CASE FOR HAVING SAID SOMETHING SO REPREHENSIBLE NOW THAT WE ALL HAVE TO RALLY AND SO ON AND SO FORTH, AGAIN WE'VE ALL SAID THINGS THAT WE SHOULDN'T HAVE. IT'S SENATOR CHAMBERS' RIGHT TO SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS. THERE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN THIS BODY. I'VE APPRECIATED HIS WORK IN THIS LEGISLATURE. AND SO I'D ASK US ALL TO TAKE A LOOK AT OURSELVES. AND I THINK SENATOR BLOOMFIELD SAID THIS, YOU KNOW, CAST A STONE IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS POSITION OF SAYING SOMETHING YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE AND BEING IN A POSITION WHERE MAYBE SOMEBODY COULDN'T HAVE JUDGED WHAT YOU SAID. SO THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO SAY, AND THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. SENATOR KOLOWSKI, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR KOLOWSKI: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND GOOD MORNING, COLLEAGUES. I STAND BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING AS THE ONE PERSON IN THE 49 OF US THAT HAS HAD THE MOST HISTORY OF WORKING WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THIS BODY. I'VE WORKED WITH HIM FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS: FOUR YEARS IN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY IN THE OMAHA AREA, AND NOW THE THREE YEARS HERE AT THE LEGISLATURE. I'VE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL FROM HIM AND WATCHED INTENTLY AS HE'S WORKED IN THIS BODY AND IN THE LEARNING COMMUNITY TO MAKE THE GAINS WE'VE MADE OVER TIME. I WANT TO ALSO ECHO SENATOR HAAR AND THANK SENATOR BLOOMFIELD FOR HIS COMMENT ON THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH AND WHERE WE SHOULD BE COGNIZANT OF THE OPPORTUNITIES OF DOING THAT AND SAYING THAT, SAYING WHAT WE BELIEVE AND FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH THAT AS WE WORK IN THIS BODY TOGETHER. THE HISTORY OF SENATOR CHAMBERS AND MYSELF GOES BACK TO 1970 WHEN I INVITED HIM TO A HIGH SCHOOL TO TALK TO A SENIOR CIVICS GROUP OF STUDENTS THAT FILLED AN AUDITORIUM AND HE WAS FANTASTIC WITH THOSE STUDENTS ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY, AS A YOUNG SENATOR IN THIS BODY. AND HE CONTINUES TO DO THAT TYPE OF WORK ALL THE WAY DOWN TO THE PRESENT DAY. HE'S PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE BELIEVES IN, VERY EMOTIONAL ABOUT WHERE HE COMES FROM, AND I KNOW I DON'T WALK IN HIS SKIN OR IN HIS SHOES, AND IN THIS BODY I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE FIVE PEOPLE THAT HAVE SEEN THE MOVIE FROM THE TIME OF THE LATE '60s IN OMAHA, A TIME FOR BURNING. THAT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

IMPRINTED HIS LIFE AND IMPRINTED THE LIVES OF MANY OF US IN THE OMAHA AREA FOR WHAT WE HAD TO FACE UP TO AND THE ISSUES OF NORTH OMAHA, RACE RELATIONS, AND MANY OTHER THINGS THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US. THERE ARE MANY THINGS IN THIS BODY THAT ARE SAID THAT ARE VERY DISTURBING TO ME, EQUALLY AS DISTURBING AS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, THE WORDS THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SPOKE AND ARE HEARING THAT THAT'S DISTURBING TO MANY OF YOU. I WISH WE FELT THE SAME WAY ABOUT HUNGRY CHILDREN, THE NEED FOR EDUCATION, THE NEED FOR MEDICAL CARE, THE NEED FOR MENTAL CARE, THE NEED FOR MANY OF THE THINGS THAT WE IGNORE OR PASS OVER IN OUR DELIBERATIONS. SO I'M NOT HERE TO JUDGE SENATOR CHAMBERS. I SERVED IN THE MILITARY AS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS. I HAD A BROTHER WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF SERVICE OF A HEART ATTACK IN HIS 20th YEAR AS A STATE TROOPER IN ILLINOIS. I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING ABOUT HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE MILITARY OR HOW I FEEL ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN BLUE. BUT I WILL DEFEND ANYONE'S RIGHT, SENATOR CHAMBERS AND EVERYONE ELSE IN THIS BODY, TO STAND AND SAY WHAT THEY BELIEVE ON A DAILY BASIS. THE HISTORY OF PARLIAMENT IN ENGLAND, THE HISTORY OF OUR OWN CONGRESS IN THIS UNITED STATES IS FILLED WITH EXAMPLES OF PASSIONATE STATEMENTS. I THINK WE NEED TO UPHOLD THAT. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KOLOWSKI. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONE TIME THAT I'VE STOOD UP TO THIS MIKE THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO STAND UP TO THE MIKE. AND YOU KNOW, WE HAVE A RIGHT TO SAY WHATEVER WE WANT IN HEARINGS, ON THIS FLOOR, AND WE ALL DO IT QUITE FREQUENTLY AND QUITE A FEW TIMES. PROBABLY EVERY ONE OF US HAS SAID SOMETHING NOT QUITE AS ARTFULLY AS WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SAID IT. EVERY ONE OF US HAS PROBABLY WISHED WE COULD HAVE SOME WORDS BACK AND SAY IT BETTER. AND UPON FURTHER REVIEW, IF I COULD HAVE SAID THAT BETTER, I WOULD HAVE DONE IT THAT WAY. WELL, HAVING READ WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID--AND IT WAS SAID FRIDAY; I WAS IN APPROPRIATIONS AND I DIDN'T HEAR IT UNTIL PROBABLY TUESDAY--I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO SAY. I DON'T THINK HE SAID IT AS WELL AS HE COULD HAVE. BUT I HAVE TO ASK MYSELF, WHAT WOULD I DO? IF I WAS...I WOULDN'T SAY IT SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BUT I COME FROM A DIFFERENT BACKGROUND. I HAVE A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW, AND I WOULD LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY. SO I TRY TO PUT MYSELF IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES. AND IF I SAID SOMETHING THAT I THINK

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

WAS MISUNDERSTOOD OR IT WASN'T CLEAR WHAT I WAS SAYING, I THINK I WOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RESAY IT, TO CLARIFY THAT I DON'T THINK POLICEMEN SHOULD BE SHOT, TO CLARIFY THAT I WOULDN'T GENERALLY CARRY A GUN AND SHOOT A POLICEMAN. HE DOESN'T CARRY A GUN. I GOT THAT. AND PROBABLY CLARIFY THAT IF YOU'RE OUT THERE AND YOU GET STOPPED BY A POLICEMAN, DON'T SHOOT THEM. IT'S THE WRONG WAY TO GO. I THINK THAT CLARIFICATION WOULD GO A LONG WAY TO FIXING THIS THING, OR TO MAKING SURE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE SAYING. I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE AND MAYBE YOU CLARIFIED IT A LITTLE BIT, SENATOR CHAMBERS, BUT I THINK THAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN. I THINK YOU PROBABLY NEED TO SAY I'M SORRY FOR SAYING IT IN A WAY THAT UPSET PEOPLE. THAT'S NOT MY INTENT. I DON'T THINK THAT WAS YOUR INTENT. AND I THINK THAT'S PROBABLY THE RIGHT WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS. LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, I GET BEAT UP MORE THAN ANYONE IN HERE FOR WHAT I SAY. THERE ARE LIBERAL GROUPS THAT ARE COMBING THROUGH EVERY TRANSCRIPT OF EVERYTHING I'VE SAID. AND THEY'RE TAKING THINGS I SAID AND THEY'RE TWISTING AND TURNING IT. AND I GET BEAT UP ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND I DON'T WANT TO BEAT UP ON ANY FELLOW SENATORS FOR WHAT THEY SAY BECAUSE I DON'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT I READ ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE SAY. BUT YOU KNOW, PROBABLY IN THIS CASE THAT'S PROBABLY THE PRUDENT THING TO DO, I THINK, IS CLARIFY, STATE THAT YOU DON'T THINK PEOPLE SHOULD SHOOT POLICEMEN, AND SAY, HEY, I'M SORRY THAT THIS IS...THAT'S NOT WHERE I WANTED TO GO WITH THIS. I THINK THAT HAPPENS. I THINK WE'RE PROBABLY OKAY. AND THAT'S WHAT I WOULD ENCOURAGE SENATOR CHAMBERS TO DO. AND WE'VE GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO HERE, AND THIS IS CERTAINLY A DISTRACTION THAT THIS BODY DOESN'T NEED. THE DAYS ARE NUMBERED HERE. AND WE'VE GOT AN AWFUL LOT OF BILLS TO WORK ON. SO YOU KNOW, I HOPE THAT WE CAN MOVE ON BEYOND THIS AND GET TO THE PEOPLE'S WORK. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. OH, MR. PRESIDENT, IF I HAVE ANY TIME LEFT, I WOULD YIELD IT TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED 1:30, AND YOU ARE NEXT IN THE QUEUE. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I DON'T MIND BEING SET UPON. THAT'S MY LIFE. IT HAPPENS TO ME. IT STARTED HAPPENING TO ME WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN GRADE SCHOOL. AND I WAS THE ONLY BLACK CHILD IN THE CLASSROOM AND THE TEACHER READ LITTLE BLACK SAMBO AND THE KIDS LAUGHED AND THE TEACHER DIDN'T STOP THEM. IT WENT ON THROUGH HIGH

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SCHOOL. I HAD THINGS HAPPEN TO ME IN LAW SCHOOL THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN TO OTHERS. SO THIS IS HAPPENING IN THE LEGISLATURE IS JUST PAR FOR THE COURSE. I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE HERE. I CAN TELL SENATOR SCHNOOR I'M NOT GOING TO RESIGN, AND HE OUGHT TO STAY HERE A LITTLE LONGER AND LEARN SOMETHING BEFORE HE POPS UP AND POPS OFF. BUT IN THE SAME WAY THAT I CAN SAY WHAT I THINK I OUGHT TO SAY, HE CAN SAY WHAT HE OUGHT TO SAY OR WHAT HE THINKS HE OUGHT TO SAY, AND I WILL DEAL WITH IT. BUT THERE WERE OTHER COMMENTS MADE BY OTHER PEOPLE DURING THAT HEARING AND YOU ALL AREN'T TALKING ABOUT THOSE COMMENTS, ARE YOU? SENATOR McCOY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. SENATOR SCHNOOR DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT. ONE OF YOUR FELLOW COLLEAGUES SAID SOMETHING AT THAT HEARING, BUT YOU'RE SILENT. I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO SPOKE OUT WHEN A MEMBER OF THE POLICE UNION HELD UP A BULLET, TALKED ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE, AND LAID IT AT THE FOOT OF SENATOR ASHFORD. THAT'S WHAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY DID. I WAS THE ONLY ONE TO SPEAK ABOUT IT PUBLICLY. AND YOU TALK ABOUT MY COMMENT ABOUT ISIS. WHAT THOSE REPUBLICANS DID WAS HAD A PICTURE OF AN ISIS MEMBER WITH THE BLADE, AND SOMEBODY IN AN ORANGE JUMPSUIT ON HIS KNEES. AND THIS PERSON SAID, SENATOR ASHFORD DOESN'T DEFEND US HERE, HE WOULDN'T DEFEND US OVERSEAS, AND CONNECTED HIM WITH THAT ACTION BY ISIS. AND NOT ONE OF THE PUPPIES HERE WHIMPERED. AND YOU THINK THAT YOUR OPPOSITION TO ME IS GOING TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN INFLAME ME? SENATOR LINDSTROM PULLED HIS NAME OFF THE BILL. DO YOU THINK THAT MATTERS TO ME? IT JUST SHOWS THAT HE HAS NO DEPTH OF CONVICTION. HE SHOULDN'T HAVE SIGNED ON IN THE FIRST PLACE. IF THE ISSUE MEANS SOMETHING TO HIM, HIS DISLIKE FOR ME SHOULDN'T RUN HIM OFF THE ISSUE. YOU ALL BRING BILLS THAT I SUPPORT. THERE ARE BILLS YOU'VE HAD THAT I DON'T SUPPORT, BUT SOME OF YOU HAVE COME TO ME FOR HELP. AND YOU KNOW HOW TO COME TO ME WHEN YOU NEED HELP, AND THOSE OF YOU IN HERE KNOW WHO YOU ARE. SO I APPRECIATE THOSE FEW SENATORS WHO ACKNOWLEDGE MY RIGHT TO SPEAK, WHO SAID I SHOULDN'T BE PILED ON, BUT I'M USED TO IT. YOU ALL ARE NOT. YOU ARE DOING TO ME WHAT WOULD DESTROY ANY ONE OF YOU, SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE DOING IT. BUT I THINK IN THE BROAD SWEEP OF THINGS, WHEN THIS IS VIEWED BY PEOPLE OTHER THAN IN THIS TIGHT LITTLE PAROCHIAL GROUP, THERE WILL BE A DIFFERENT REACTION TO IT FROM THE ONE YOU'RE GETTING BY SAYING TO EACH OTHER WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. AND IT SHOULD BE ESPECIALLY INFORMATIVE TO YOU TO REALIZE THAT IT MAKES ME NO DIFFERENCE WHATSOEVER. I'M NOT GOING TO APOLOGIZE. WHY DO YOU THINK I WOULD APOLOGIZE? IF I SAID SOMETHING THAT I DIDN'T MEAN, THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID, I WOULD APOLOGIZE. ALL

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

YOU'D HAVE TO DO IS CALL IT TO MY ATTENTION THAT I SAID IT. BUT IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT GOES ON IN THAT JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, I MEANT WHAT I SAID AND I SAID WHAT I MEANT. AND I'M LIKE SENATOR KOLOWSKI IN THIS RESPECT, I DON'T HAVE TO PROVE MYSELF TO ANYBODY. BUT FOR THE RECORD, I'VE HAD POLICE OFFICERS WHO SUPPORT ME WHEN I RUN FOR OFFICE. I'VE HAD STATE TROOPERS TELL ME THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE STATE PATROL RECRUITED THAT POLICE OFFICER, WHICH YOU ALL DON'T KNOW ABOUT, AND YOU DON'T EVEN CARE. BUT I DO. AND I'VE HAD A COUPLE DEPUTIES WHO ARE PASSING THROUGH THE CAPITOL TELL ME THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHY THE SHERIFF HIRED THAT COP WHO HAD BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF EXCESSIVE FORCE. EVERYBODY TALKS TO ME. IF YOU HAD BEEN IN THE HALL A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO, YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN ME SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE LITTLE CHILDREN. AND I MAY HAVE TOUCHED ON IT THE OTHER DAY, BUT WHAT I DIDN'T TOUCH ON IS TELLING YOU I CAN GET AN IDEA OF WHAT THE POPE FEELS LIKE. THESE LITTLE CHILDREN WANTED ME TO TOUCH THEM. THEY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE. THEY WERE MAKING SO MUCH NOISE THEY WERE HEARD THROUGHOUT AREAS OF THE FIRST FLOOR. AND THAT HAPPENS REGULARLY. SO WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO ME IF PEOPLE WHO DON'T LIKE ME ANYWAY ARE GOING TO EXPRESS WHAT THEY DON'T LIKE? BUT I DON'T HAVE TO BE LIKE SENATOR McCOY AND HIDE BEHIND AN ISSUE TO SAY WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY TOWARD OR ABOUT SOMEBODY. AND I'M ALSO NOT A LEMMING WHO JUMPS IN LINE AND FOLLOWS ALONG AND WILL DO THINGS THAT CONTRADICT WHAT I PRETEND TO BELIEVE IN, WHAT I PRETEND TO STAND FOR. I WILL STAND ALONE, AND I DON'T MIND IT. I'M ACCUSTOMED TO IT. I RELISH IT. WHEN YOU'RE IN AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH YOU'RE COMFORTABLE... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...YOU THRIVE. AND ONE OF MY FAVORITE EXPRESSIONS IS THE LOUDER THE VIPERS' HISS, THE BETTER I LIKE IT BECAUSE IT SHOWS I'M STRIKING CLOSE TO THEIR NEST. YOU'VE HEARD ME SAY WHEN SENATOR McCOY TRIED TO MAKE A VEILED THREAT ABOUT MY DEATH PENALTY BILL, NO BILL THAT I HAVE WILL HOLD ME CAPTIVE OR HOSTAGE. WHAT DO THEY THINK? I'M GOING ON GET DOWN ON MY KNEES AND LICK SOMEBODY'S SHOES SO THAT THEY'LL LEAVE THEIR NAME ON A DEATH PENALTY BILL TO ABOLISH IT? HE DOESN'T KNOW ME. (SINGING) NO, YOU DON'T KNOW ME. AND NONE OF YOU OWN ME. AND NONE OF YOU WILL. BUT I'M WAITING TO SEE IF ONE OF MY COLLEAGUES STANDS UP TO TELL YOU WHAT HE SAID AT THE HEARING WITH REFERENCE TO MY COMMENT. YOU READ THE WHOLE TRANSCRIPT? THEN YOU

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

READ IT, DIDN'T YOU? BUT YOU DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT, DID YOU?
[LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HILKEMANN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I WANT TO THANK SENATOR McCOY FOR INFORMING THIS BODY YESTERDAY ABOUT THOSE WORDS AND THOUGHTS. I GAVE UP ON TALK RADIO A LONG TIME AGO, DON'T LISTEN TO FOX MUCH ANYMORE. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING YESTERDAY BECAUSE I WENT HOME AND I WANTED TO READ THE TRANSCRIPT, AND I READ THAT TRANSCRIPT. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING IN THIS BODY FOR OVER 40 YEARS. I FIRST HEARD YOU SPEAK IN 1968 AT NEBRASKA WESLEYAN WHEN YOU CAME TO OUR STUDENT BODY THERE AND SPOKE, SO I'VE KNOWN OF YOU FOR A LONG TIME. I'VE BEEN HERE 53 DAYS. OVER THE 53 DAYS I'VE BEEN HERE, I'VE LISTENED TO YOU CALL US BIGOTS, RICKETTS' "CRICKETS," "REPELICANS," RACISTS TO NAME JUST A FEW. YOU FREQUENTLY DISPARAGE MY FAITH AND MY FOUNDATIONAL SOURCE OF MORAL AND ETHICAL TRUTHS FOUND IN THE "BIBBLE." I CAN RESPECT YOU AS A MAN OF INTELLECT AND ORATORICAL SKILL. BUT YOU HAVE SAID THINGS IN THIS CHAMBER THAT NOT ANOTHER SENATOR WOULD EVEN THINK TO UTTER, NOR BE ALLOWED TO SAY AND GO UNCHALLENGED OR UNCENSORED. SIR, ARE YOU SAYING OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT IS FAIR GAME? DO YOU TRULY WANT TO LIVE IN A SOCIETY OF CHAOS? SENATOR CHAMBERS, WHEN YOU ARE CONCERNED...WITH YOU, I AM CONCERNED AND TROUBLED WHENEVER OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS RESORT TO DEADLY FORCE ON UNARMED CIVILIANS. NO ONE, POLICE INCLUDED, IS ABOVE THE LAW. WITH YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I BELIEVE THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER. BUT, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I ALSO BELIEVE THAT BLUE LIVES MATTER. THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR POLICE OFFICERS ARE THE MEN AND WOMEN...THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR BLUE PROTECT AND SERVE US VERY WELL. THESE MEN AND WOMEN ARE BLACK AND WHITE AND HISPANIC AND ASIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN. THE BLUE THEY WEAR TRANSCENDS RACIAL LINES. EVERY DAY THEY PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE TO PROTECT AND SERVE US. THEIR LIVES MATTER. BLUE LIVES MATTER. I CANNOT TOLERATE ANY LANGUAGE OR BEHAVIOR THAT PULLS THESE LIVES AT RISK OR INCITES OTHERS TO HARM OUR POLICE OFFICERS. YOU LIKE REFERRING

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

TO A MAN OF CONVICTION THAT I ALSO HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF APPRECIATION FOR, SIR THOMAS MORE. BUT IN MY OFFICE HANGS A PICTURE OF WILLIAM WILBERFORCE. THAT PICTURE WAS GIVEN TO ME BY MY SON ON THE DAY THAT I WAS INSTALLED IN THIS BODY. YOU ACTUALLY MET HIM THE DAY THAT HE WAS HERE. HE WROTE ME A NOTE, AND ON IT HE SAID ONE MAN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. WILBERFORCE WAS A YOUNG MAN OF PRIVILEGE WHO WAS ELECTED TO THE PARLIAMENT IN 1784. THREE YEARS LATER, HE EXPERIENCED A CONVERSION TO CHRISTIANITY AND WENT ON TO BECOME THE DRIVING FORCE OVER THE NEXT 26 YEARS TO END... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR HILKEMANN: ...THE SLAVE TRADE IN ENGLAND IN 1807. ONE OF OUR MAIN DUTIES AS SENATORS IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE. HOW CAN WE CARRY OUT THAT DUTY WHEN WE HAVE A MEMBER OF THIS BODY PUBLICLY ESPOUSING HE WOULD SHOOT THE POLICE FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER? THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HILKEMANN. SENATOR GROENE, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR GROENE: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN I THINK OF...WHEN I SEE NEW STORIES LIKE ON FERGUSON, MISSOURI, AND THE PRESS SAYS, WELL, THEY'RE PARI-MUTUEL (SIC) AND THEY'RE DRESSED IN BULLETPROOF VESTS AND SHIELDS AND THEY'RE WALKING IN LOCKSTEP. AND I WATCHED THAT FILM, I DON'T SEE POLICE OFFICERS. I SEE AN INDIVIDUAL THAT HAS A JOB. HE GOES HOME EVERY NIGHT TO HIS FAMILY, TO HIS KIDS. ON THE WEEKENDS, HE GOES TO HIS CHURCH. HE'S JUST AN AVERAGE GUY. YOU DON'T PUT A UNIFORM ON AND ALL OF A SUDDEN BECOME A PARATROOPER. THESE ARE JUST FELLOW CITIZENS THAT CHOSE A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT. SO TO EQUATE THEM TO PEOPLE WHO DO THINGS BECAUSE OF SOME MISGUIDED RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES OR SOMETHING, THEY'RE JUST PEOPLE. THEY'RE TRYING TO DO A JOB. AND WHAT SCARES ME MORE ABOUT WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAYS IS NOT WHAT BOTHERS THIS...I'M A BIG ADULT. I BELIEVE IN FREE SPEECH. IT'S WHO HE REPRESENTS, AND HE HAS A CHALLENGE. I'M AFRAID, JUST LIKE HAPPENED IN FERGUSON, THAT SOME YOUNG HOT HEAD FROM WHATEVER RACE MIGHT LISTEN TO THAT AND SAY, I'M GOING TO GO POP A COP BECAUSE A MAN I RESPECT, AND I RESPECT HIM A LOT SAID THAT WAS OKAY. THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME. AND IF...HE DOESN'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME. I'M A FIRM

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

BELIEVER IN FREE SPEECH. BUT I WISH HE WOULD GO BACK INTO HIS DISTRICT AND MAKE THAT CLEAR TO THE YOUNG MEN ON THE STREET, THAT I WAS MAKING A POLITICAL POINT, NOT A POINT OF SOMETHING I WOULD ACTUALLY ADVOCATE DOING. HE DOESN'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE TO ME, BUT I WISH HE WOULD DO THAT. I ADMIRE SENATOR CHAMBERS. I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM HIM. I'M A CHRISTIAN. I DON'T CONDEMN A MAN. THAT'S FOR SOMEBODY A LOT BETTER AND BIGGER THAN ME TO DO THAT. WE ALL MAKE MISTAKES. I'VE BEEN BLESSED WITH ONE SENATOR IN THE BACK ROW THAT KEEPS AN EYE ON WHAT I SAY. SENATOR CHAMBERS IS EVEN LUCKIER THAN ME. HE'S GOT 48 DOING IT FOR HIM. BUT IT WASN'T RIGHT. YOU KNOW, THEY SAY DON'T...BEWARE OF WHAT YOU ASK FOR. I'VE BEEN TO A LOT OF...POLITICAL CORRECT SPEECH PREACHED IN THIS COUNTRY THAT BORDERS ON TAKING A PERSON'S RIGHT AWAY, RIGHTS AWAY OF FREE SPEECH. SENATOR CHAMBERS WILL PAY FOR WHAT HE SAID. HE KNOWS IT. HE'S SEEN PEOPLE PULL SUPPORT FROM HIS BILLS ALREADY. THE SYSTEM WILL WORK. BUT AS THE QUOTE SAYS THAT WAS ATTRIBUTED TO VOLTAIRE, I DISAPPROVE OF WHAT YOU SAY, BUT I WILL DEFEND TO THE DEATH YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT. THAT WAS SOMETHING SAID BY A FRENCHMAN BACK IN THE 1700s THAT HAD A LOT TO DO, THAT QUOTE. AND IT WASN'T ACTUALLY, SOME SAY, SAID BY HIM BUT REPEATED BY HIM. IT HAD A LOT TO DO WITH HOW OUR CONSTITUTION WAS RIGHT. HOW ONE MAN MAKES A DIFFERENCE, AND ONE MAN MAKES A QUOTE, GOOD OR BAD, IT HAS AN EFFECT ON OTHERS. SO, AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE SENATOR CHAMBERS TO MAKE SURE IN HIS DISTRICT, AT LEAST, THAT HE EXPLAINS TO THOSE YOUNG MEN THE HISTORY WHERE HE COMES FROM AND WHY HE TAKES THAT POSITION BECAUSE HE WAS THERE IN THE '60s WHEN HE DID SEE SOME OF THESE THINGS HAPPEN. I WASN'T. NONE OF MY FAMILY EVER OWNED A SLAVE. IN FACT, ON ST. PAT'S I WAS DOING A LITTLE HISTORY ON ST. PAT HIMSELF AND HE WAS A SLAVE. SOME OF MY ANCESTORS WERE SLAVES ALSO. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR GROENE: BUT THAT'S PASSED. LET'S GO ON. LET'S GO ON FROM HERE AND DO GOOD LEGISLATION, AND LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR GROENE. SENATOR SCHNOOR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR SCHNOOR: THANK YOU. I'M GOING TO STAND UP AND POP OFF ONE MORE TIME. YOU KNOW, I SERVED IN THE MILITARY FOR 20 YEARS. I WASN'T VOTED IN BY THE PEOPLE, I WAS NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNOR. BUT THAT STILL GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO STAND UP HERE AND POP OFF AND I'M GOING TO DO THAT BECAUSE I DON'T ANSWER TO YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. REMEMBER, YOU TOLD ME, I ANSWER TO THE PEOPLE OF MY DISTRICT. SO THAT'S THE ONE PIECE OF ADVICE I'VE TAKEN FROM YOU. BUT I'M GOING TO STAND UP HERE AND I'M GOING TO TAKE A STAND. AND IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE I'LL PROBABLY BE BY MYSELF BECAUSE ALL I HEAR IS, OH, HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO SAY THIS. HE'S BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME. LET'S GIVE HIM A BREAK. POOR SENATOR CHAMBERS THIS, POOR SENATOR CHAMBERS THAT. I FIND THAT PATHETIC, ABSOLUTELY PATHETIC, THAT NOBODY WANTS TO ASK FOR ANY ACCOUNTABILITY. SO, SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU CAN MAKE A MOCKERY OF ME. YOU CAN MAKE A MOCKERY OF THIS PLACE, A MOCKERY OF ANYBODY YOU WANT TO, BUT I'M GOING TO STAND UP HERE IN THE PUBLIC ON RECORD AND ASK FOR YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEMAND YOUR ACCOUNTABILITY. IT'S NOT MY POSITION TO JUDGE YOU. THAT'S GOD'S JOB, AND HE'S GOING TO JUDGE US ALL BECAUSE LIKE SENATOR BLOOMFIELD SAID, WE'RE ALL...THERE'S NONE OF US WITHOUT SIN. AND I FALL RIGHT IN THAT. BUT I'M GOING TO STAND UP HERE. AND THIS IS WHAT...THAT'S WHAT I'VE GOT TO SAY. I'M ASKING FOR ACCOUNTABILITY. NOW I COULD BE MOCKED OR WHATEVER, BUT THE FACTS ARE THE FACTS, AND WHAT WAS SAID WAS WHAT WAS SAID. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY ELSE IN THE TRANSCRIPT SAID THAT I AM GOING TO KILL THE POLICE. SO THOSE ARE THE FACTS, PLAIN AND SIMPLE. SO, THANK YOU, SIR. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHNOOR. SENATOR KUEHN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR KUEHN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS MORNING AS I RISE, I ALSO REFLECT THE OUTRAGE THAT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS OF MY DISTRICT AND MY CONSTITUENTS WITH THE COMMENTS THAT WERE MADE. CERTAINLY OVER THE LAST 50-SOME LEGISLATIVE DAYS, I HAVE LISTENED AND I HAVE LEARNED FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS AND MY COLLEAGUES. I WILL STATE THAT BEING BORN IN 1974 IN EASTERN KEARNEY COUNTY, I DIDN'T SHARE THE LIFE EXPERIENCES THAT FORMED THE WORLD VIEW OF SOME IN THIS BODY. I'VE HAD MY OWN UNIQUE SET OF LIFE EXPERIENCES WHICH HAVE CERTAINLY FORMED MY PERSPECTIVE ON THE WORLD GROWING UP IN A FARM FAMILY IN THE FARM CRISIS OF THE 1980s, PUTTING MYSELF THROUGH COLLEGE LIKE THE REST OF MY SIBLINGS DID. BUT ONE THING I HAVE LEARNED IN MY JOURNEY AND THAT HAS LED ME TO THE UNICAMERAL HERE IS THAT WORDS MATTER.

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

AND AS SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS POINTED OUT TO US MANY TIMES THAT THE WORDS AND THE RHETORIC THAT'S BEEN UTILIZED IN THE WORLD IN GENERAL IN OUR POLITICAL RHETORIC OF DECADES BEFORE ME AND DECADES THAT WILL FOLLOW ME, THAT THE WORDS WE USE AND THE WORDS WE USE TO COMMUNICATE TO EACH OTHER ABOUT GROUPS, ABOUT INDIVIDUALS, THEY HAVE POWER AND THEY MATTER. AND WHEN WE TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SERVING IN A PUBLIC OFFICE, WHEN WE HAVE THE OBLIGATION OF REPRESENTING OUR CONSTITUENTS, AND WE HAVE THE BURDEN OF MAKING DECISIONS WHICH IMPACT THE LIVES OF NEBRASKANS, INCLUDING OUR CONSTITUENTS AND EVERYONE IN THIS STATE ON A DAILY BASIS, THAT COMES WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO WATCH OUR WORDS. EVERY MORNING SENATOR CHAMBERS PROVIDES FOR US WORDS THAT HE HAS THOUGHT ABOUT DEEPLY, THAT HE HAS CRAFTED CAREFULLY. HE KNOWS THE POWER OF THOSE WORDS. WE ALL DO. AND TO SIMPLY SAY THAT WORDS IN THIS CASE ARE NOTHING MORE THAN WORDS TO WHICH ANY INDIVIDUAL HAS A RIGHT TO SAY IS DISINGENUOUS. THEY ARE WORDS WHICH SHOULD BE CONDEMNED. THEY ARE WORDS WHICH DEMAND AN APOLOGY, JUST AS ANY WORDS WITH THAT FORCE AND WITH THAT LEVEL OF CONVICTION SHOULD BE. SO WITH MY DISTRICT, I STAND AND I ASK FOR AN APOLOGY. I CONDEMN THAT KIND OF RHETORIC BY AN ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL. AND I HOPE THAT GOING FORWARD WITH THE REST OF THE SESSION, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US KEEP IN MIND THE POWER THAT OUR WORDS HAVE BOTH WITHIN THIS BODY AND TO THOSE THAT ARE DEPENDING ON US TO DO THE RIGHT THING ON A DAILY BASIS. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KUEHN. SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. CERTAINLY, IN MY SEVEN YEARS IN THIS BODY, I'VE MADE MY FAIR SHARE OF INARTFUL AND DEFINITELY EVEN SOME INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS AND HAVE STOOD ON THE FLOOR TO APOLOGIZE FOR THOSE ON A COUPLE OF OCCASIONS WHEN I DID FEEL THEY WERE INAPPROPRIATE. AND I CERTAINLY DO FIND SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE. ANY INSINUATION THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN ACT OF AGGRESSION TOWARDS LAW ENFORCEMENT IS CERTAINLY HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE. LAW ENFORCEMENT IS AN EXTENSION OF US. IT'S AN EXTENSION OF THE PUBLIC, AN EXTENSION OF GOVERNMENT TO ENFORCE OUR LAWS, WHETHER IT'S THE STATE TROOPERS ENFORCING LAWS AT THE STATE LEVEL, LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT. THEY ARE AN EXTENSION OF US, AND ANY ACT OF AGGRESSION TOWARDS

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

THEM IS AN ACT OF AGGRESSION TOWARDS SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. AND I'M NOT GOING TO EXPAND ON THAT. BUT I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THOSE THAT ARE INTERESTED IN EXPRESSING OUR SUPPORT FOR THOSE MEN AND WOMEN THAT DO, AS SENATOR GROENE SAID, PUT ON THE UNIFORM, OUR FRIENDS, OUR NEIGHBORS WHO GO HOME AT NIGHT TO THEIR FAMILIES, EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR THEM. MY OFFICE HAS SENT A RESOLUTION UP TO BILL DRAFTING TO EXPRESS THAT SUPPORT. ANYONE WHO'S INTERESTED IN COSIGNING CAN COME LET ME KNOW, AND ONCE THE RESOLUTION COMES DOWN, WE WILL CIRCULATE THAT AND APPRECIATE EVERYONE'S SUPPORT OF THAT. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR MELLO, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR MELLO: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. IT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING MORNING TO HEAR FROM COLLEAGUES GIVE PERCEPTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES IN REGARDS TO CIVIL DISCOURSE, WHAT OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS ARE AS INDIVIDUAL SENATORS TO MAKE ARGUMENTS THAT TO SOME EXTENT MAY MAKE ANOTHER SENATOR BOIL AND BE ANGRY AT THE TOP OF THEIR LUNGS. I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT RESPECT FOR MY COLLEAGUE, SENATOR McCOY. ME AND SENATOR McCOY HAVE AGREED ON ISSUES IN OUR SEVEN YEARS DOWN HERE AND HAVE VEHEMENTLY DISAGREED ON OTHERS. THE SAME GOES FOR SENATOR CHAMBERS, THAT I'VE AGREED WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND VEHEMENTLY DISAGREED WITH HIM ON OTHERS. AND YES, THE LANGUAGE THAT HE USED IN A HEARING WAS PROBABLY MORE THAN INARTFUL. IT'S SOMETHING THAT I CAN'T CONDONE. AND ARGUABLY I'VE TALKED TO ALMOST A DOZEN OF YOU IN THE LAST DAY, AND I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYONE CONDONE THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE BECAUSE WE KNOW IT DAMAGES THE CIVIL DISCOURSE. BUT THE CONCERN THAT I'VE GOT IS NOT WHETHER OR NOT SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID SOMETHING THAT I MAY FIND OFFENSIVE OR THAT YOU MAY FIND OFFENSIVE. THE CONCERN I'VE GOT IS THE RAMIFICATIONS OF HOW WE USE SITUATIONS LIKE THIS TO DRIVE...TO TRY TO DRIVE HOME POLITICAL ARGUMENTS. I'M GOING TO GIVE CREDIT TO SENATOR KINTNER WHO SAID HE'S MADE MISTAKES. HE'S SAID INARTFUL COMMENTS. AND THE QUESTION THAT I WOULD POSE TO US IS WHEN WE MAKE AN INARTFUL COMMENT, WILL WE COME TO THE FLOOR AND DO EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE TODAY EXPLAINING EVERY TIME WE HEAR SOMETHING THAT'S OFFENSIVE TO US? EVERY TIME WE HEAR SOMETHING THAT'S OFFENSIVE IN COMMITTEE, WILL WE COME HERE TODAY AND DO THE SAME THING? BECAUSE IF WE'RE NOT, WE NEED TO TAKE A STEP BACK. BECAUSE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

THE REALITY, THIS LEGISLATURE HAS A HISTORY OF SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT. IT DOESN'T REQUIRE US TO TAKE A PICTURE AND TO TWEET SOMETHING OUT OR TAKE SOME KIND PHOTOGRAM OF SAYING HOW WE LOVE LAW ENFORCEMENT. THIS LEGISLATURE OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS HAS PROTECTED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS, WE'VE EXPANDED THEIR WORKERS' COMPENSATION AS IT RELATES TO POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER, CREATED A PEACE OFFICERS' BILL OF RIGHTS, HAVE REFORMED PENSION REFORM. THOSE OF US ON THE FLOOR WHO ARE CLAMORING OUR LOVE FOR THE BLUE AND GOLD, THINK BACK TO SOME OF YOUR VOTES ON THE ISSUES. WHERE WERE YOU ON THE FLOOR ADVOCATING AT THE TOP OF YOUR LUNGS TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT? WHERE WERE YOU IN REGARDS TO DEFENDING THOSE RIGHTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILIES, THEIR CHILDREN, TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR LIVELIHOODS AS PUBLIC SERVANTS? COLLEAGUES, ISSUES ARE NEVER BLACK AND WHITE IN THIS LEGISLATURE. I'VE ALWAYS SAID THAT. EVERY YEAR, I FEEL I'VE GOT SAY THAT, THAT WE OPERATE IN CREATING PUBLIC POLICY IN A VARIETY OF SHADES OF GRAY. AND YES, SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID SOMETHING THAT I DON'T LIKE, I CAN'T CONDONE, AND I WOULDN'T HAVE SAID IT. BUT IT'S HIS RIGHT TO BE ABLE TO DO THAT. I GET NERVOUS WHEN I HEAR COLLEAGUES SAY THAT WANT SENATORS TO RESIGN, OR THEY WANT TO CENSURE SENATORS FOR SOMETHING THEY DON'T LIKE BECAUSE WHAT'S THE NEXT LINE, COLLEAGUES? WHEN A SENATOR WHO DISAGREES WITH ME ON MY BELIEF ON ABORTION, WHERE DOES THAT LINE GET CREATED? WHERE IS THAT OFFENSE TAKE? BECAUSE SOMEONE DISAGREES WITH ME ON AN ISSUE AND SAYS SOMETHING I MAY NOT AGREE WITH AT THE TOP OF MY LUNGS, AND IT'S SOMETHING THAT'S SO CORE IN MY BELIEF, DO I STAND ON THIS FLOOR AND ASK FOR THEM TO RESIGN BECAUSE THEY SAID SOMETHING IN A HEARING OR ON THE FLOOR THAT I DON'T BELIEVE IN? I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN DO THAT BECAUSE DEMOCRACY AND CITIZENSHIP IS SOMETHING MORE THAN THAT. IT BRINGS US TO THE PUBLIC SQUARE TO DEBATE ISSUES, TO HAVE MAJORITY AND MINORITY OPINIONS. AND YES, SENATOR CHAMBERS MAY HAVE A MINORITY OPINION ON THIS ISSUE IN REGARDS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, BUT HE STILL HAS A RIGHT AS A SENATOR TO MAKE THAT POINT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR MELLO: THE 48 OF US CAN DISAGREE WITH HIM ON THAT POINT, AND WE CAN CONDUCT BUSINESS IN A DIFFERENT WAY. BUT WE'VE GOT TO LOOK BEYOND THIS ISSUE. WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT IT AS AN INSTITUTION. AND WE'VE GOT TO LOOK AT IT AS A DEMOCRACY AND HOW WE OPERATE AS A

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

DEMOCRACY, WHERE POINTS OF VIEW ARE TAKEN FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. AND WE AS PUBLIC POLICYMAKERS HAVE THE ABILITY TO MAKE ACTIONS MATTER A LOT MORE THAN WORDS, COLLEAGUES, A LOT MORE THAN PICTURES, A LOT MORE THAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS. WE GET TO TAKE VOTES, VOTES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES, POLICE OFFICERS' LIVES, THEIR CHILDREN'S LIVES, THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. KEEP THAT IN MIND. AND KEEP THIS IN PERSPECTIVE AS WE CONTINUE TO DEBATE DIFFICULT ISSUES, AS WE CONTINUE TO HEAR STATEMENTS FROM COLLEAGUES THAT WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH. BUT WE CAN DISAGREE WITH THEM AND STILL TRY TO PROTECT THE CIVIL DISCOURSE THAT OUR VOTERS AND OUR CONSTITUENTS EXPECT US TO KEEP, NOT JUST IN THIS BODY, BUT ACROSS THE STATE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR MELLO. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR KEN HAAR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR HAAR: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, ONE OTHER THING I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS, I WON'T BE AT THAT RALLY AFTER THE SESSION. I LOOK AT THIS AS A LITMUS TEST AND I'VE, IN MY 72 YEARS, BEEN THROUGH TOO MANY LITMUS TESTS TO JUMP AND TRY TO PROVE SOMEONE ELSE'S POINT BY RESPONDING TO THEIR LITMUS TEST. AND I'M NOT SAYING THAT'S THE SAME FOR EVERYONE. BUT I'M JUST TELLING YOU THAT'S HOW I LOOK AT IT. IF SOMEONE WANTS TO JUDGE ME AND WHERE I STAND ON SUPPORT OF THE POLICE, THEY SHOULD LOOK AT MY VOTE. THEY SHOULD LOOK AT MY PUBLIC SERVICE LIFE, WHEN I WAS ON THE LINCOLN CITY COUNCIL, THE SUPPORT I GAVE FOR LAW OFFICERS AND FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SO ON. THEY NEED TO LOOK AT THE SUPPORT I GAVE WHEN I'VE BEEN A POLITICAL ACTIVIST SINCE 1980 IN TERMS OF COUNTY PARTY AND STATE PARTY SORTS OF THINGS. LOOK AT MY VOTE. LOOK AT WHERE I PUT MY ENERGY. LOOK AT MY ACTIONS. THE POLICE KNOW WHERE I STAND. FIREFIGHTERS KNOW WHERE I STAND. I SUPPORT THEM. THE POOR KNOW WHERE I STAND. AND CHILDREN KNOW WHERE I STAND. SO IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A LITMUS TEST ON JUST ABOUT EVERY ISSUE WHEN SOMETHING OFFENSIVE IS SAID, YOU KNOW, MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE HAD A LITMUS RALLY WHEN MEDICAID EXPANSION WAS TURNED DOWN. I CONSIDER THAT TO HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT ISSUE FOR MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS WHO ARE CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE AND CAN'T AFFORD HEALTH CARE. BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE A RALLY FOR THAT AFTERWARDS SAYING THOSE WHO DON'T ATTEND, YOU KNOW, SHOULD BE JUDGED A CERTAIN WAY. WORDS ARE REALLY IMPORTANT. AND I WANT TO TALK ABOUT ANOTHER ISSUE IN TERMS OF THE POWER OF WORDS. AS SENATOR MELLO MENTIONED

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

ABORTION, AND I'M NOT...I BELIEVE HE'S ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF WHERE I STAND ON THAT. WE'VE HAD PEOPLE IN THIS BODY IN THE PAST WHO TALK ABOUT MURDER AND THINGS LIKE THAT AND THEN, YES, PEOPLE AROUND THIS COUNTRY HAVE TAKEN THAT TO HEART AND THEY'VE GONE AROUND. AND, YOU KNOW, I'M MARRIED TO SOMEONE WHO WAS A DIRECTOR OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR NEBRASKA. AND WE LIVED IN FEAR BECAUSE OF DEATH THREATS FOR A WHILE BECAUSE IT WAS POPULAR TO SHOOT OR SHOOT AT PEOPLE AT PLANNED PARENTHOODS. WORDS DO HAVE POWER. BUT THEN PEOPLE HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS. AND I DIDN'T BLAME ANYBODY IN THIS LEGISLATURE FOR THE DEATH THREATS THAT CHRIS GOT. I BLAME THE PEOPLE WHO, OUT OF WHATEVER MOTIVATION, DECIDED THAT IT WAS GOD'S WILL TO SHOOT PLANNED PARENTHOOD DIRECTORS. SO WORDS HAVE POWER, WE ALL HAVE TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR OWN WORDS. AND I THINK WE NEED TO BE JUDGED ON THE WORDS THAT WE DO USE. ACTUALLY, I'VE KNOWN SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR WAY BACK IN THE 1970s WHEN I TAUGHT AT TECH HIGH SCHOOL IN OMAHA, THE TIME WHEN THERE WERE MAJOR UPHEAVALS IN CITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. I DON'T HAVE A BLACK SKIN. I'VE NOT LIVED IN A BLACK SKIN. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR HAAR: AND SO I CAN'T JUDGE THAT. SO ANYWAY, I WON'T BE AT THE RALLY. IF YOU WANT TO JUDGE ME, LOOK AT HOW I VOTED. LOOK AT WHERE I'VE PUT MY ENERGY. AND COME AND TALK TO ME IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I STAND. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HAAR. SENATOR GARRETT, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR GARRETT: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY HERE TO SPEAK, BUT I FEEL IT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY TO SPEAK. MY FIRST SESSION IN THE LEGISLATURE LAST YEAR, THE FIRST DAY OF THE SESSION I REMEMBER VIVIDLY. THE FIRST TIME SENATOR CHAMBERS GOT UP TO SPEAK, I TURNED AROUND, WAS LOOKING AT HIM, AND HE WAS SPEAKING. AND I HATE TO PARAPHRASE BUT ESSENTIALLY HE WAS CALLING US ALL RACIST. WELL, THAT GOT ME PRETTY FIRED UP. I HAD TO TURN AROUND AND BURY MY FACE IN MY GADGET AND BUSY MYSELF. BUT I'VE COME TO KNOW SENATOR CHAMBERS PRETTY WELL. MY TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE LAST FRIDAY, IT WAS INTERESTING TO SAY THE LEAST.

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

I'M A CAREER MILITARY MAN, 26 YEARS IN THE AIR FORCE. MY DAD WAS A CAREER MILITARY MAN. MY FATHER-IN-LAW WAS A POLICE OFFICER IN DENVER. MY BROTHER-IN-LAW WAS A DEPUTY SHERIFF. OUR BEST FRIEND IN THE WORLD IS A RETIRED NEW YORK CITY COP, GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS IN THE FBI. I LOVE LAW ENFORCEMENT, LOVE OUR MILITARY GUYS. I DIDN'T LOOK EXACTLY AT THE TRANSCRIPT, BUT I THINK THE GENESIS OF THE WHOLE ISIS/ISIL THING CAME UP WITH A QUESTION BEING ASKED OF ME OF WHY PEOPLE FELT THEY NEEDED TO CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS. AND I SAID, YOU KNOW, JUST THE WORLD SITUATION WITH THE TALIBAN, ISIS/ISIL, HOMEGROWN RADICALS IN THE UNITED STATES. PEOPLE FEEL MORE INSECURE AND THEY FEEL THEY NEED TO CARRY WEAPONS. AND I THINK THAT'S WHAT...THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN WHAT LED TO SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS. BUT AS...I TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS ON HIS ISIS/ISIL COMMENTS AND COMMENTS ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT. BUT PROBABLY THE MOST TROUBLING THING...AND I RAN INTO SENATOR CHAMBERS EARLY MONDAY MORNING ON THE WAY IN THE BUILDING. HONESTLY, HIS COMMENTS ON FRIDAY TROUBLED ME THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. BUT THE REASON THEY TROUBLED ME MORE THAN ANYTHING WAS THE FACT THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS IS A VERY LEARNED MAN. I OFTEN SAY HE'S THE SMARTEST MAN IN THE LEGISLATURE. AND FOR HIM TO HAVE THE FEELINGS THAT HE'S GOT, HIS LIFE EXPERIENCES AND HE WAS BRINGING UP EXAMPLES OF HOW INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INNOCENT INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE SHOT AND FOLKS WERE BRUTALIZED IN CUSTODY AND THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER THING, HIS LIFE EXPERIENCES BRING HIM TO MAKE SOME OF THESE COMMENTS. AND THAT, TO ME, IS WHAT'S SO TROUBLING. HE'S TRYING TO BRING ATTENTION TO A LOT OF ISSUES THAT NEED ATTENTION. YOU KNOW, WHAT GOES ON IN NORTH OMAHA EVERY NIGHT, JUST ABOUT EVERY NIGHT, THERE'S SHOOTINGS, YOU KNOW? THAT'S VERY TROUBLING. AND I KNOW THE OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT, GOD BLESS THEM. I LOVE THEM, AND THEY WORK THEIR BUTTS OFF. HE'S TRYING TO BRING ATTENTION TO A LOT OF ISSUES, AND I DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE WITH HIS METHODS. I DON'T AGREE WITH HIS METHODS SOMETIMES. BUT HE SAYS THE THINGS THAT HE SAYS. AND WE HAVE THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. WHETHER YOU LIKE WHAT HE SAYS OR NOT, HE HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY IT. YOU KNOW, WHEN I JOINED THE AIR FORCE, I TOOK AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. WHEN I TOOK THIS JOB, I TOOK AN OATH TO SUPPORT AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF NEBRASKA. AND PART OF ALL THAT IS FREE SPEECH. AND SO SENATOR CHAMBERS CAN SAY WHATEVER THE HECK HE WANTS TO SAY. AND WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH IT, MAY NOT AGREE WITH HIS METHODS, BUT BY GOD, HE'S GOT THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HE DOES. AND SO I JUST FELT IT NECESSARY TO STAND UP. I'M NOT PILING ON SENATOR CHAMBERS. AGAIN, HE'S

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

VERY PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT HE DOES. AND HE MAKES A LOT OF GREAT POINTS. GOD BLESS OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOD BLESS OUR MILITARY. AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR GARRETT. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE. PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY LOVED JOHN F. KENNEDY AFTER HE WAS KILLED. BUT I REMEMBER THE ATTITUDE, ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTH AND CERTAIN CONSERVATIVE ENCLAVES, THE ATTITUDE THEY HAD TOWARD HIM. BUT HE GAVE A SPEECH AFTER ONE OF THOSE PARTICULARLY BAD RACIAL INCIDENTS THAT WHITE PEOPLE WON'T EVEN REMEMBER. IT DOESN'T AFFECT THEM. AND THAT'S WHAT'S MEANT BY WHITE PRIVILEGE. AND KENNEDY SAID THOSE OF YOU WHO WANT TO SAY THAT THE BLACK MAN SHOULD WAIT AND BE PATIENT, THAT THINGS ARE AS THEY OUGHT TO BE--AND I'M PARAPHRASING-- WHICH ONE OF YOU WHO IS WHITE AND SAYS THAT WOULD BE WILLING TO PUT YOURSELF IN THE SKIN AND SHOES OF A BLACK MAN AND THEN SAY THE SAME THING? I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT. IF I THOUGHT YOU UNDERSTOOD, I WOULDN'T REPEAT IT OVER AND OVER AND OVER, AND THE REACTION SHOWS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. BUT I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M STRONG. ALL OF THIS PITY-PAT GOING ON HERE DOES NOT HAVE A CHILLING EFFECT ON ME. BUT YOU NEED TO THINK ABOUT HOW IT'S GOING TO MAKE THE REST OF YOU FEEL IF YOU DARE GET OUT OF LINE. WILL YOU STAND UP LIKE I WILL AND CHALLENGE THOSE WHO ARE DOING THE PITY-PAT TO DO MORE? NO, YOU'LL BE QUIET. YOU'LL SWALLOW SPIT. YOU DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONE ON THE OUTSIDE. SO YOU'RE CREATING A CLIMATE, AND IT'S NOT GOING TO HURT ME BECAUSE I'M GOING TO DO WHAT I THINK I SHOULD DO ANYWAY. I'VE BEEN FIGHTING TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY EVERY SINCE I CAME HERE. SO FOR SENATOR LINDSTROM AND SENATOR McCOY AND SOME OF THE OTHERS TO THINK THAT THEY HURT ME BY KILLING A BILL, THEY DON'T HAVE ANY UNDERSTANDING AT ALL. I'M VERY COMFORTABLE WITH WHO I AM. I BELIEVE IN ME. I DON'T NEED HELP AND I DON'T ASK FOR IT. MY JOB IS TO DO MY JOB REGARDLESS OF THE ODDS, REGARDLESS OF THE OPPOSITION, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO. SENATOR DAVIS IS GOING TO GIVE YOU ALL A CHANCE ON THE FIRST BILL UP TO PUNISH ME FURTHER. BUT IT'S PUNISHMENT ONLY IF I SEE IT THAT WAY. I SEE IT AS RECOGNITION OF THE POWER THAT I HAVE, THE FEAR THAT I INSPIRE. BUT IT'S ALSO AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE WILL WORK AGAINST ME WHEN THEY'RE IN THE MOB AND JOIN IN THAT COLLECTIVE MOB MENTALITY. BUT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

WHEN THEY NEED SOMETHING, THEY COME TO MY OFFICE. IT'S LIKE THAT SONG ABOUT LOVE FOR SALE: YOU WANT TO TEST MY WARES, CLIMB THE STAIRS. THEY'RE LIKE NICODEMUS WHO WENT TO JESUS AT NIGHT BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO SEE HIM. BUT HE WANTED TO MAKE AN INQUIRY. SO PEOPLE COME TO MY OFFICE AND THEY MAKE INQUIRIES. BUT I'M SOMETHING LIKE WHAT A PRIEST IS SUPPOSED TO BE. I DON'T REVEAL WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CONFESSION BOOTH. BUT YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE. WHEN I'VE BEEN TO OTHER STATES AND THEY ASK ME ABOUT THE LEGISLATURE, AND I SAY, THERE'S ONLY ONE HOUSE, 49 PEOPLE, AND EVERYONE IS CALLED A SENATOR. AT THAT TIME, I WAS THE ONLY BLACK PERSON IN THE LEGISLATURE. AND PEOPLE WITH THE ATTITUDE THEY HAVE ABOUT THE BACKWARDNESS AND RACISM OF THIS STATE, AND THAT'S THE WAY NEBRASKA IS VIEWED AROUND THE COUNTRY. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT, YOU ASK PEOPLE WHEN YOU LEAVE NEBRASKA. THEY SAID, WELL, YOU MUST HAVE A HARD TIME IN THAT LEGISLATURE, I SAID I DO. THEY SAID AND YOU MUST HAVE POLITICAL FIGHTS. I SAID, WELL, THAT'S NATURAL ANYWHERE. THEY SAID, NO, BUT... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...YOU'RE 1 OUT OF 49. I SAID, YEAH. THEY SAID THAT'S NOT A FAIR FIGHT, IS IT? I SAID, NO, IT'S NOT. THEY NEED MORE HELP. AND THAT'S BEING DEMONSTRATED THIS MORNING. THAT'S WHAT'S DEMONSTRATED THIS MORNING. AND IF YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO COW ME DOWN, AND AS FOR SENATOR SCHNOOR SAYING SOMETHING IS PATHETIC, HE'S GONE NOW SO I'LL WAIT UNTIL HE COMES BACK. BUT ANYBODY IS PATHETIC WHO THINKS HE WILL STAND UP IN HIS PIDDLING ARROGANCE AND SAY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, I DEMAND THAT YOUR RESIGNATION BE ON THE DESK BY 10:00 MONDAY MORNING. KIDS IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD LAUGH AT THAT. WHITE KIDS IN HIGH SCHOOL WHO UNDERSTAND THINGS WOULD SAY DON'T JUDGE ME BY HIM. THAT'S NOT THE WAY WE ARE. I DON'T KNOW WHY THOSE WHITE TEACHERS INVITED ME TO COME TO WESTSIDE AND ADDRESS THEIR WHITE STUDENTS... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...ON A YEARLY BASIS, SOMETIMES MORE THAN ONCE A YEAR. THESE LITTLE CHURCH COLLEGES AROUND THE STATE... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. THAT WAS YOUR THIRD TIME. SENATOR HADLEY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SPEAKER HADLEY: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I'VE SAT AND LISTENED. I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH THIS SINCE YESTERDAY MORNING, OFF AND ON, TALKING TO A LOT OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE. AND I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A QUOTE FROM VOLTAIRE: I DISAPPROVE OF WHAT YOU SAY, BUT I WILL DEFEND TO THE DEATH YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT. AND WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY IS BASICALLY DOING THAT. A NUMBER HAVE GOTTEN UP AND DISAGREED WITH WHAT SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS SAID, AND THAT'S OUR RIGHT IN HERE. THAT'S WHAT WE CAN DO. I WANT TO GIVE YOU JUST A LITTLE BACKGROUND OF WHY WE CAN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, BASICALLY GOES BACK TO COMMON LAW, AND IT'S CALLED THE ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH. AND ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT THERE'S ABSOLUTE FREEDOM OF PRIVILEGE OF SPEECH IS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS AND EVERY STATE LEGISLATURE IN THE NATION. WE HAVE ABSOLUTE PRIVILEGE OF SPEECH IN EVERY COMMITTEE HEARING AND ON THE FLOOR. AND EVEN THE COURT RULINGS HAVE GONE SO FAR AS TO SAY WHAT WE SAY DOES NOT EVEN HAVE TO PERTAIN TO WHAT IS BEING DISCUSSED AT THAT POINT IN TIME IN EITHER THE COMMITTEE OR ON THE FLOOR. SO IT WORKS BOTH WAYS. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAD THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HE SAID. WOULD A NUMBER OF US LIKED TO HAVE HAD HIM SAY IT DIFFERENTLY? PROBABLY, A NUMBER OF US, MYSELF INCLUDED, YET WE ALSO HAVE THAT RIGHT TODAY TO STAND UP AND SAY, SENATOR CHAMBERS, WE THINK YOU WERE WRONG, WHAT YOU SAID. WE HAVE THAT RIGHT. AND WE AS A LEGISLATIVE BODY HAVE TO HAVE THOSE KINDS OF DISCUSSIONS. IF WE'RE GOING TO DO OUR WORK, WE HAVE TO HAVE A FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION. AND WHEN WE FEEL PEOPLE CROSSED THE LINE, AND I'M GOING TO, AS A NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN HERE HAVE SAID, AND I'M SURE I'VE BEEN GUILTY OF IT, TOO, SAYING THINGS THAT YOU WISHED LATER YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE SAID, BUT YOU HAVE THAT RIGHT TO SAY IT. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HADLEY. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I STOOD UP EARLIER. SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE THOUGHT I WAS DEFENDING SENATOR

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

CHAMBERS. WHILE I WOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE ASHAMED TO DO THAT, HE DOESN'T NEED ME TO DEFEND HIM. WHAT I WAS DEFENDING AND WHAT I WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND IS THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. THERE IS NO WAY TO GET ON THE BAD SIDE OF ME QUICKER THAN TRYING TO DEPRIVE US OF ONE OF OUR RIGHTS. AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, THERE HAVE BEEN TOO MANY AMERICANS HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES TO DEFEND THAT RIGHT AROUND THE WORLD. I KNOW THERE'S AN IDEA GOING AROUND THAT WE SHOULD PULL OUR SUPPORT FROM SOME OF SENATOR CHAMBERS' BILLS. THE NEXT ONE UP HAS TO DEAL WITH PRAIRIE DOGS. WELL, IT DOES DEAL WITH PRAIRIE DOGS, BUT IT ALSO DEALS WITH PROPERTY RIGHTS. SO IF WE THINK WE'RE GOING TO PUNISH SENATOR CHAMBERS BY ALL OF A SUDDEN NOW THAT IT'S ON FINAL READING, KILL A BILL THAT HE'S CHAMPIONED TO PRESERVE PRAIRIE DOGS IN HIS MIND, PERHAPS, DON'T COUNT ME IN THAT GROUP BECAUSE WE'RE TAKING AWAY THE RIGHTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS IF WE DO SO. COLLEAGUES, WE'RE ALL ADULTS IN HERE, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD. IF YOU SIGN ONTO A BILL, IF YOU VOTE FOR A BILL, AND FIND GOOD, JUST REASON TO CHANGE YOUR MIND, CHANGE YOUR MIND, BE ABLE TO DEFEND WHY YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND. BUT DON'T VOTE FOR A BILL BECAUSE OF SOMETHING YOU THINK THE SPONSOR MAY HAVE DONE RIGHT OR WRONG. DON'T VOTE AGAINST A BILL BECAUSE YOU DON'T LIKE THE GUY THAT BROUGHT IT. DON'T VOTE FOR A BILL BECAUSE YOUR BEST FRIEND IN THE BODY SUGGESTED YOU DO SO. COLLEAGUES, VOTE FOR BILLS YOU SUPPORT. VOTE AGAINST BILLS YOU OPPOSE. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREEDOM YOU HAVE TO STAND UP AND SPEAK YOUR MIND ON THE BILLS YOU WANT TO SPEAK ON. SENATOR CHAMBERS IS AN ADULT. HE WILL TAKE WHATEVER ABUSE WE CHOOSE TO HAND OUT TO HIM AND HE WILL COME BACK SWINGING. I'VE GOT TO KNOW THE MAN. I'VE GOT TO RESPECT THE MAN. I DON'T ALWAYS AGREE WITH HIM. BUT I KNOW HE'S NOT GOING TO GO AWAY OVER THIS, AND I HOPE HE DOESN'T. MR. PRESIDENT, I'D YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR CHAMBERS. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED 1:40. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. ONE OF THOSE BRAVE WHITE GUYS JUST GOT THROUGH SCREAMING AT CINDY AT MY OFFICE. THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT THAT NONE OF YOU WILL HAVE TO EXPERIENCE. AND I'M GOING TO GO DO WHAT I NEED TO DO RIGHT THIS MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR WILLIAMS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR WILLIAMS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND THE LAST TIME THAT SENATOR CHAMBERS WAS ON THE MIKE, HE ISSUED A CHALLENGE THAT I WANT TO PUBLICLY ACCEPT, AND THAT'S THE CHALLENGE OF NOT ONLY EXERCISING FREE SPEECH BUT STANDING UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE ALWAYS AND NOT SITTING SILENTLY AT TIMES. AND I GUESS THAT'S WHY I'M STANDING UP RIGHT NOW. AND I ALSO WANT TO STRONGLY THANK SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR THE PRIVATE COUNSEL THAT HE HAS GIVEN ME OVER THESE 50 SOME DAYS THAT I HAVE BEEN HERE IN THE LEGISLATURE, BECAUSE I HAVE APPRECIATED THAT, AS I HAVE THE COUNSEL FROM MANY OF THE SENIOR MEMBERS IN THIS GROUP. I HAVE THE FORTUNE AND THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING ON THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. I'M ONE OF FOUR FRESHMEN SENATORS THAT SERVE ON THAT COMMITTEE. AND WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY IN THAT COMMITTEE TO HEAR MANY EMOTIONAL ISSUES, MANY ISSUES THAT TUG AT YOUR HEART STRINGS AND CAUSE YOU TO WONDER WHEN YOU GO HOME AT NIGHT, WHY DID I VOLUNTEER OR CHOOSE TO BE HERE? BUT THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE. LAST WEEK WAS A DIFFICULT WEEK IN JUDICIARY. WE HEARD GUN BILLS ON THURSDAY AND WE HEARD GUN BILLS AGAIN ON FRIDAY. AND MY REGRET IS THAT WHEN SENATOR CHAMBERS USED THE TERMS THAT HE USED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON ON SENATOR GARRETT'S BILL, THAT I SAT QUIETLY AND DID NOT RESPOND AT THAT POINT. I THINK SENATOR KRIST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THAT EARLIER. THE CHALLENGE THAT I HAVE FROM SENATOR CHAMBERS IS THAT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. THE STATE PATROL OFFICER THAT WAS IN THE JUDICIARY HEARING ROOM LAST WEEK HAPPENS TO BE A STATE PATROL OFFICER FROM MY HOMETOWN OF GOTHENBURG. HE HAPPENS TO GO TO THE SAME CHURCH THAT I GO TO. HIS DAUGHTER IS A GOOD FRIEND OF ONE OF OUR PAGES THAT SITS HERE TODAY. AFTER THE HEARING FRIDAY AND I WALKED OUT OF THE ROOM, ERIC (PHONETIC) GRABBED ME AND HE SAID, HOW DO YOU STAND TO SIT HERE AND LISTEN TO COMMENTS LIKE THAT? AND AS ERIC AND I WALKED DOWN THE HALL, I SAID, ERIC, THIS IS AMERICA, THIS IS THE FREEDOM THAT WE HAVE, THIS IS THE FREEDOM THAT WE PROTECT, THIS IS WHY WE ARE HERE. NOW I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED, GROWING UP AS I DID, THAT I PLANNED TO ALWAYS HOLD MYSELF TO A HIGHER STANDARD. I HOPE THE OTHERS IN HERE FEEL THAT SAME WAY. THAT STANDARD REQUIRES ME TO STAND UP FOR WHAT I BELIEVE IN. AND WHEN I AM WRONG, IT REQUIRES ME TO RECOGNIZE THAT I NEED TO THEN TAKE ACTION TO APOLOGIZE TO THAT. I AM NOT ASKING SENATOR CHAMBERS TO APOLOGIZE. BUT I WILL TELL YOU, IF AND WHEN I OFFEND ANY ONE OF YOU ON AN ISSUE, PLEASE KNOW THAT I WILL APOLOGIZE. THAT IS THE STANDARD THAT I HOLD MYSELF TO. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR WILLIAMS: I BELIEVE THIS DISCUSSION TODAY IS ONE OF THE MOST RELEVANT DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD IN THE 50 SOME DAYS IN THE LEGISLATURE. WHAT I WOULD CLOSE WITH IS USING THE REVERSE OF THAT, AND THAT'S THE IRRELEVANT WORD, BECAUSE I WOULD ISSUE A CHALLENGE BACK TO ALL OF US, INCLUDING SENATOR CHAMBERS, THAT WHEN WE ARE EXERCISING OUR FREE SPEECH, WE MAKE THAT FREE SPEECH RELEVANT, NOT IRRELEVANT. THE COMMENTS THAT I HAVE HEARD ABOUT BEING A BIGOT, BEING HYPOCRITICAL IN MY THINKING, BEING A CHRISTIAN, BEING WHITE HURT, AND THOSE COMMENTS ARE IRRELEVANT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB70A]

SENATOR WILLIAMS: THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SEILER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR SEILER: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE UNICAMERAL, I'M LOOKING AT A...AND AS YOU KNOW, I LOOK THROUGH THE EYES OF THE LAW MORE THAN OF WHEN I'M SITTING IN THE POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE JUDICIARY. THERE'S AN INTERESTING SECTION. IT WAS PASSED IN 1875 AND IT'S STILL ON OUR BOOKS TODAY. IN ARTICLE III, SECTION 26, OF OUR CONSTITUTION GIVES PRIVILEGE TO MEMBERS: NO MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE SHALL BE LIABLE IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION FOR WHATEVER...FOR WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. THAT IS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOURS PROTECTION. SO IT EVEN GOES FURTHER THAN THE RIGHT OF...THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH. IT SPECIFICALLY SETS OUT THAT YOU ARE PROTECTED BOTH CRIMINALLY...FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OR FROM CIVIL PROSECUTION WHEN YOU'RE IN A DEBATE ON THIS FLOOR OR IN COMMITTEE. SO I THINK YOU OUGHT TO KEEP THAT A LITTLE BIT IN MIND WHEN YOU'RE JUDGING THIS DEBATE. THANK YOU. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SEILER. SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I WANTED TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS THE UPCOMING BILL. SENATOR CHAMBERS MADE A REFERENCE TO IT. SO DID SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. AND I WANT EVERYBODY ON THIS FLOOR TO UNDERSTAND THAT MY OPPOSITION TO THAT BILL IS NOT BASED ON ANYTHING THAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST FEW DAYS. I WASN'T HERE DURING THE SELECT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

FILE DEBATE ON IT. I WAS SICK AT THE TIME. AND SO THIS IS MY ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO DEAL WITH THAT BILL. BUT SINCE I'M STANDING HERE, I'LL MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT THE ISSUE AT HAND. AND I SERVED ON THE JUDICIARY WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR A LONG TIME, THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS DURING SOME CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. HE'S ALWAYS BEEN EDGY; HE'S ALWAYS BEEN OUT THERE. BUT A LOT OF TIMES, AND MOST OF THE TIME, HE BRINGS APPROPRIATE DISCUSSION TO THE TABLE. HE'S BEEN A GOOD PUBLIC SERVANT. I DON'T SUPPORT WHAT HE SAID. I THINK IT'S A LITTLE BIT OF AN EXAMPLE OF HYPERBOLE, WHICH IS AN EXAGGERATION FOR THE SAKE OF POINTING OUT SOMETHING. AND IT'S UNFORTUNATE THAT HE CHOSE TO USE THAT BECAUSE IT TRIVIALIZES ENTITIES LIKE ISIS AND ISIL. AND ANY OF YOU WHO HAVE EVER STUDIED THE INTERNET MAY KNOW OF GODWIN'S LAW, WHICH IS IF ANY DISCUSSION GOES ON LONG ENOUGH, SOMEONE WILL INVARIABLY COMPARE SOMEBODY TO A NAZI. IN ESSENCE, I THINK IN SOME RESPECTS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED THE DAY OF THIS TESTIMONY. I'VE JUST BEEN READING THROUGH IT. I'M DISAPPOINTED IN SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR THE STATEMENTS HE MADE. BUT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S GOTTEN UP HERE BEFORE, I DEFEND HIS RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HE WANTS TO SAY. HE'S BEEN A GOOD SENATOR HERE. WHAT HE SAID WAS UNFORTUNATE. I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM APOLOGIZE FOR IT, BUT I'M NEVER GOING TO HOLD IT AGAINST HIM. AND JUST TO GET BACK TO THE PRAIRIE DOG BILL THEN ONE MORE TIME, DON'T VOTE AGAINST THAT BILL BECAUSE YOU'RE UNHAPPY WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS OVER THIS ISSUE. VOTE AGAINST IT BECAUSE IT WAS THE WRONG...IT'S THE WRONG INITIATIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE AND WE'LL DEAL WITH THAT WHEN I GET TO THE FLOOR. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, IT HAS BEEN AN INTERESTING MORNING TO LISTEN TO EVERYONE'S COMMENTS. AND I'M A FIRM BELIEVER THAT WE ARE ALL, EACH OF US, ACCOUNTABLE FOR THE WORDS WE SAY AND THE ACTIONS WE TAKE AND THE VOTES WE MAKE. AND SO I, LIKE A LOT OF OTHER PEOPLE IN THE BODY, UNDERSTAND THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT WE FEEL PASSIONATELY ABOUT AND USE EXAMPLES THAT WE MAY...OTHERS, ALL OTHER 48, MAY NOT CHOOSE TO SAY. I'M ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY LIKE TO WEAR ON MY SLEEVE WHAT I MIGHT FEEL IN MY HEART ALL THE TIME. I CERTAINLY SUPPORT OUR POLICE OFFICERS AND OUR MILITARY. AND I TRY VERY MUCH EVERY DAY, IF I RUN ACROSS SOMEONE WHO IS IN THE MILITARY OR THE TROOPERS THAT ARE IN THE CAPITOL, TO SAY

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

HELLO OR TO TALK TO THEM OR TO THANK THEM FOR BEING HERE FOR US. SO MY REMARKS REALLY GO MUCH BACK TO WHAT SENATOR KRIST SAID AND THAT IS, THIS GIVES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO STEP BACK AND REALIZE THAT, AS A SOCIETY, WE THINK, WOW, WE'VE BECOME VERY OPEN-MINDED, WE CARE A LOT FOR PEOPLE, WE'VE BECOME VERY TOLERANT. BUT IF WE CHOOSE TO REALLY BE HONEST AND LOOK INSIDE OURSELVES, WE REALIZE THAT WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO BE OPEN-MINDED, TO BE CARING, AND TO BE TOLERANT. AND I WORRY THAT IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, WE CHOOSE EVERY DAY NOT TO REALLY SEE EVERY NEBRASKAN. IT'S TOO EASY TO LOOK AT EVERY NEBRASKAN WHO LOOKS LIKE WE DO OR IS THE AGE WE ARE AND NOT SEE PEOPLE OF COLOR, NOT TO SEE PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR, NOT TO SEE PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP, BUT TO SAY EVERYTHING IS FINE. IT IS NOT. AND I HOPE THAT WE USE WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF DAYS TO BE INTROSPECTIVE AND TO LOOK WITHIN OURSELVES AND TO SAY, WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO IN THE STATE. WE NEED TO BE CARING OF ALL NEBRASKANS AND WE NEED TO BE TOLERANT OF ALL NEBRASKANS HOWEVER DIFFICULT, SOMETIMES, THAT IS TO BE. I DON'T CONDONE WHAT THE WORDS SAID OR THE ACTION AGAINST THE POLICE. BUT I'VE SPENT THE MORNING SAYING, I NEED TO STEP UP AND I NEED TO DO THOSE THINGS TOO. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CAMPBELL. SENATOR BRASCH, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BRASCH: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AND, COLLEAGUES, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME THAT I RISE. I DID WANT TO BE CLEAR THAT, LIKE SENATOR McCOY, I BELIEVE AN APOLOGY WOULD BE VERY APPROPRIATE. I KNOW SENATOR CHAMBERS DISAGREES. SENATOR SEILER JUST ROSE AND READ THE RULES OF THE LEGISLATURE. APPARENTLY, WE'RE ABLE TO SAY WHATEVER WE WANT TO SAY WHILE WE'RE IN THIS BODY. HOWEVER, BEING IN THIS BODY, I THINK WE ARE HELD TO HIGHER STANDARDS. I DO BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE LOOK TO US FOR LEADERSHIP, FOR INTEGRITY, FOR DIRECTION, THAT IF THE BAR IS NOT HELD HIGH ENOUGH, THAT WE RISE TO THAT OCCASION, AND THAT WE DO HOLD HIGHER STANDARDS THAT MAY BE WRITTEN IN LAW BOOKS. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS ALSO MENTIONED ABOUT THE CHILDREN THAT COME INTO THIS CAPITOL. WE HAVE SOME IN THE BALCONY HERE THIS MORNING, AND WE WELCOME THEM AND WE LOOK TO THEM TO BE FUTURE LEADERS. THOSE CHILDREN HOLD OUT THEIR HANDS. THEY WANT TO SEE THEIR LEADER, TO TOUCH THEIR LEADER, TO BE LIKE THEIR LEADER. WE ARE AN INSPIRATION THAT MANY ASPIRE TO. AND I WANT US TO ALWAYS KEEP THAT IN MIND NO

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

MATTER WHAT IS WRITTEN IN LAW. HOWEVER, I HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO THE CONTINUOUS DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND IT HAS PROVEN TO BE VERY FRUITFUL. BUT I DO WANT TO NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ARTICULATION ABOUT WHAT IT MEANS THAT WE SHOULD EXERCISE THIS FREEDOM, ABOUT WHAT THIS EXACTLY MEANS. THE PURPOSE OF THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS TO COMMUNICATE TO OTHERS AND IT'S TO COMMUNICATE TO OTHERS THE TRUTH. AND THE TRUTH, WHEN WE DEFEND OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH, MUST ALSO DEFEND THAT THE FACT OF THE SPEECH AT HAND MUST BE ROOTED IN TRUTH AND THE WAY THINGS ARE. FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS NOT THERE FOR ITS OWN SAKE. SPEECH IS THERE FOR ONE TO SAY WHATEVER THE FEELING THEY MAY HAVE AT THAT TIME THAT THEY MAY DESIRE, IS A PART OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL LAW OF OUR COUNTRY, AND HAS PROVEN TO US THAT NOT ALL SPEECH IS PROTECTED. THERE ARE LAWS AGAINST DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER, LAWS THERE THAT PROTECT US WITH SPEECH. FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS FOR THE SAKE OF DISCUSSING AND ARRIVING AT THE TRUTH. THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS DISCUSSED FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, WHICH WE KNOW IS ROOTED IN THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AS WELL. THAT WAS IN 1774. AND I'LL QUOTE, THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS, THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, CONSISTS BESIDES THE ADVANCEMENT OF TRUTH, SCIENCE, MORALITY, AND THE ARTS IN GENERAL IN ITS DIFFUSION OF LIBERAL SENTIMENTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT, ITS READY COMMUNICATION OF THOUGHTS BETWEEN SUBJECTS, AND THE CONSEQUENTIAL PROMOTION OF UNION AMONG THEM. IN SHORT, THE PURPOSE OF FREE SPEECH IS TO BIND US AND TO BIND US TO THE TRUTH SO THAT WE CAN CONDUCT OURSELVES TOWARDS COMMON GOOD... [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR BRASCH: ...WHICH INCLUDES PROTECTING PUBLIC SAFETY AND WELFARE. I SAID IT BEFORE, I AM VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MESSAGE THAT THAT STATEMENT HELD IN COMMITTEE TO THOSE LISTENING AND WANTING TO ACT OUT. AND I HOPE WE CAN ACT OUT TOGETHER IN WORKING TOWARDS TRUTH, TOWARDS A COMMON GOOD, AND NOT TOWARDS VIOLENCE, THAT THERE IS A SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE IN THE WORDS WE USE IN THIS BODY AND THERE'S CONSEQUENCES AS WELL. WORDS CAN BE HARMFUL. I BELIEVE WORDS CAN ALSO HEAL, AND THAT IS WHY I AM ASKING FOR THAT APOLOGY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BRASCH. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.)
SENATOR McCOY, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. I RISE AGAIN THIS MORNING TO READ INTO THE RECORD TWO ITEMS WHICH I BELIEVE ARE PERTINENT AND RELEVANT. ONE IS A PRESS RELEASE. IT WAS RELEASED WITHIN THE LAST 30 MINUTES OR SO FROM GOVERNOR RICKETTS' OFFICE: GOVERNOR RICKETTS STATES SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, CALLS SENATOR CHAMBERS' REMARKS IRRESPONSIBLE. TODAY, GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS CALLED ON SENATOR ERNIE CHAMBERS OF OMAHA TO ISSUE A PUBLIC APOLOGY FOLLOWING UNACCEPTABLE COMMENTS HE MADE DURING A COMMITTEE HEARING. AS PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WE'RE HELD TO A HIGHER STANDARD AND WE SHOULD BE. NO ONE SHOULD EVER SUGGEST THE USE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS. I HAVE REVIEWED THE TRANSCRIPT FROM THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING IN QUESTION, AND SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS WERE OUT OF LINE. WORDS MATTER. AT A TIME WHEN WE NEED TO DEVELOP BETTER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OUR COMMUNITIES, SENATOR CHAMBERS' COMMENTS ARE IRRESPONSIBLE AND ONLY PROMOTE DISTRUST AND THE POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE. I URGE SENATOR CHAMBERS TO ISSUE A FULL APOLOGY FOR HIS REMARKS AND TO CONDEMN ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT. MEMBERS, I FELT THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO READ INTO THE RECORD. AS I SAID, I RECEIVED THAT, AS I THINK PROBABLY ALL OF US DID, WITHIN THE LAST 30 MINUTES OR SO. ALSO WANT TO READ A MESSAGE I RECEIVED FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THAT I FELT LIKE WAS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT THINGS I HAD RECEIVED FROM ANYONE IN THE LAST 24 HOURS ON THIS ISSUE. AND I'LL QUOTE IT AND, OF COURSE, I'M GOING TO LEAVE OUT THE NAME AND WHERE THEY ARE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AS A MATTER OF FAIRNESS. AND I'LL QUOTE FROM THEIR MESSAGE TO ME: I EXPECT TO BE CURSED AT, SPIT UPON, OR ATTACKED BY THOSE WHO WISH TO BREAK THE LAW AND DO NOT WANT TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS. IT IS ANOTHER THING TO BE COMPARED TO A GROUP THAT TORTURES AND MURDERS INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN BY AN ELECTED OFFICIAL THAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE LAWS THAT I HAVE SWORN TO UPHOLD. IT IS EVEN WORSE WHEN THAT SAME ELECTED OFFICIAL STATES THAT IF HE HAD A GUN, HE WOULD SHOOT ME, JUST BASED ON THE JOB I DO AND THE OATH I TOOK. LAW ENFORCEMENT FACES POTENTIAL LIFE-AND-DEATH SITUATIONS EVERY DAY, AND THE LAST THING THEY NEED IS SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE A RESPECTED FIGURE CONDONING AND ADVOCATING THEIR INJURY OR DEATH, END QUOTE. YOU KNOW, MEMBERS, SENATOR SEILER IS CORRECT. THE CONSTITUTION IN ARTICLE III, SECTION 26, DOES PROVIDE FOR ANY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATURE TO NOT BE LIABLE IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL ACTION FOR ANY WORDS SPOKEN IN DEBATE. THAT'S TRUE. AND IT'S BEEN SAID ON THE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

FLOOR, FREE SPEECH. I GET IT. I'M THE FIRST TO STAND UP AND DEFEND IT. I'VE NEVER IN SEVEN YEARS ASKED SENATOR CHAMBERS TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANYTHING THAT HE SAID AND DENOUNCE ANYTHING THAT HE SAID. BUT I AM ON THIS ISSUE BECAUSE I BELIEVE THIS HAS CROSSED THE LINE WHERE WE ARE ENDANGERING LIVES OF THOSE WHO WEAR A UNIFORM TO PROTECT US. HOW CAN WE EXPECT A CRIMINAL, A POTENTIAL CRIMINAL WHO MIGHT WANT TO COMMIT A GUN CRIME OR ANY SORT OF CRIME AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT TO READ A TRANSCRIPT AND TRY TO UNDERSTAND CONTEXT OR HYPERBOLE. WORDS MATTER. AND SENATOR CHAMBERS SAID THESE WORDS. THAT'S IS WHAT FOLKS HEAR. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR McCOY: THAT'S WHY AN APOLOGY AND A DENOUNCEMENT OF THESE WORDS HAS TO HAPPEN. OTHERWISE, HOW ON EARTH CAN OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS FEEL THAT THEY'RE PROTECTED AND DEFENDED? YES, IT'S A RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH. THAT'S TRUE. BUT THAT CROSSES A LINE WHEN YOU'RE ENDANGERING OTHERS' LIVES. MEMBERS, THAT'S WHY WE EVER HAD THE PATRIOT ACT IN THE FIRST PLACE AFTER 9/11. CONGRESS DEBATED THIS ISSUE, IN A WAY. AND WHICH SIDE DID THEY COME DOWN ON: DEFENSE OF THE HOMELAND AND OF OUR COUNTRY. AND BY EXTENSION, THAT'S THE DEBATE WE'RE HAVING THIS MORNING. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOY. SENATOR SCHEER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. NOTWITHSTANDING WE'VE HAD THOUGHTFUL COMMENTS BY ALL THIS MORNING, BUT AS WE DO ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, WE WILL TALK SOMETHING PAST THE POINT OF NO RETURN. WE HAVE REACHED THAT POINT. I WOULD ASK ANYONE THAT HAS THEIR LIGHT ON TO SPEAK TO THIS ISSUE TO PLEASE TAKE IT OFF AND LET US AS A BODY MOVE FORWARD AND DO THE WORK THAT WE WERE BROUGHT HERE TO DO. THE CONVERSATION HAS BEEN GOOD. THE THOUGHTS HAVE BEEN TRUTHFUL. THEY HAVE BEEN HONEST ON ALL'S PART. BUT IT IS NOW TIME THAT WE RETURN TO THE WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE. HAVING SAID THAT, I WOULD ASK SENATOR SCHUMACHER IF HE WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB70A]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: YES, I WILL. [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHEER: SENATOR SCHUMACHER, LB70A IS IN FRONT OF US NOW. COULD YOU PLEASE REFRESH THE BODY IN RESPECT TO WHAT THE BILL WAS AND THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATION THAT IS BEFORE US, PLEASE? [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THIS PARTICULAR BILL IS A RESULT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OPINION SUGGESTING THAT WE PROVIDE FOR PROCEDURES FOR THE TAX COMMISSIONER TO REVIEW THE SITUATION OF WHAT MIGHT BE ILLEGAL GAMING MACHINES IN THE STATE, AND THAT SUGGESTION WAS INCORPORATED INTO LB70. AND THIS...THE FISCAL OFFICE AS WELL AS THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME COST THAT MIGHT BE INCURRED IN THIS AND A GUESSTIMATE WAS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN \$10,000 AND \$50,000 IN THIS ENFORCEMENT ACTION. AND THAT'S WHAT LB70A PROVIDES FOR. [LB70 LB70A]

SENATOR SCHEER: THANK YOU, MR. SCHUMACHER. THAT CERTAINLY EXPANDS THE POINT THAT WE HAVE IN FRONT OF US. AND I WOULD LEAD MY SUPPORT TO THE PASSAGE OF LB70A IN FRONT OF US AT THIS TIME. THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHEER. (VISITORS INTRODUCED.) CONTINUING ON DEBATE, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR SCHUMACHER: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. MEMBERS OF THE BODY, MY RESPONSE TO SENATOR SCHEER'S QUESTION WILL CONSTITUTE MY CLOSING ON LB70A. SENATOR CHAMBERS, HOWEVER, HAS ASKED FOR SOME TIME, AS HE'S OUT OF THE THREE CHANCES THAT HE HAD TO SPEAK ON THIS MATTER, AND I WOULD DO THAT. AND THIS ALSO CONSTITUTES MY CLOSING SO WE CAN...CONSISTENT WITH SENATOR SCHEER'S SUGGESTION MOVE ON WITH BUSINESS. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHUMACHER. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED 4:30. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, THIS MESS IS THEORETICAL AND PLAYTIME FOR YOU ALL. YOUR WHITE FRIENDS

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

BRING THAT MESS TO MY OFFICE. AND IF I WAS A COWARD, I WOULD STAY UP HERE OR I'D HOLLER FOR THE STATE PATROL. IT'S MY JOB TO PROTECT THE WOMAN WHO WORKS IN MY OFFICE AND I WILL. BUT THESE COWARDS OUGHT TO COME SEE ME. THEY DON'T HAVE TROUBLE FINDING ME. AND THAT'S ONE OF THE STATEMENTS I MADE BEFORE, THAT THEY FIND FOMENTING VIOLENCE, BECAUSE I SAY I'LL DEFEND MYSELF. FIND ME. DO YOU KNOW WHY I PUT MY PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS IN THE PHONE BOOK? THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HATE ME AND IF THEY WANT TO BURN MY HOUSE DOWN, I DON'T WANT THEM TO GO TO THE WRONG PERSON'S HOUSE TO BURN IT DOWN. NOW HOW DOES THAT SET WITH YOU, YOU BRAVE PEOPLE WHO WILL DO THINGS IN A MOB THAT YOU WON'T DO ONE-ON-ONE? YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY, HIDING BEHIND SENATOR McCOY, WHO HIDES BEHIND THE GOVERNOR, WHO HIDES BEHIND ALL THESE OTHERS AND GETS YOU TO JOIN HIM IN PRODUCING A MOB. THAT'S WHAT YOU HAVE HERE THIS MORNING. YOU WILL DO COLLECTIVELY AS A MOB WHAT YOU'D LIKE TO DO ONE-ON-ONE BUT YOU DARE NOT. I GIVE YOU THE INVITATION. I'M ALWAYS HERE. I DON'T ASK ANYBODY TO ACCOMPANY ME TO THAT PARKING LOT. I COME HERE WHEN IT'S DARK. I OFTEN LEAVE WHEN IT'S DARK. I'M NOT GOING TO HIDE FROM ANYBODY. YOU KNOW WHY I STAYED IN MY OFFICE YESTERDAY OVER THE NOON HOUR? YOUR FRIENDS, PEOPLE WHO FEEL LIKE YOU, WERE CALLING AND CURSING CINDY OUT, USING RACIAL EPITHETS. I SAID, CINDY, DON'T TALK TO THOSE FOOLS, HANG UP ON THEM. SHE SAID, WELL, THERE MIGHT BE A LEGITIMATE CALL, BECAUSE PEOPLE DO CALL MY OFFICE OTHER THAN THESE FOOLS WHO GO ALONG WITH WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. SO I SAID THAT I'M GOING TO STAY HERE AND I'LL ANSWER ALL THESE CALLS. AND THE REPORTER FROM CHANNEL 7 SAT DOWN THERE OVER A HALF-HOUR AND WATCHED EVERY TIME ONE OF THOSE LINES, I WAS THROUGH TALKING, THE OTHER ONE WAS RINGING, AND I ANSWERED EVERY ONE OF THEM. I ANSWER. I DON'T HIDE BEHIND A WOMAN. I DON'T HIDE BEHIND THE GOVERNOR. HE HANDED OUT HIS PRESS STATEMENT AND HE READS IT ON THE FLOOR. YOU ALL DON'T OBJECT TO THAT, DO YOU? BRING THE GOVERNOR'S MESS HERE? CAN'T THE GOVERNOR SPEAK FOR HIMSELF? HE NEEDS TO HIDE BEHIND SOMEBODY? THAT'S WHAT THE PROBLEM IS. I'M NOT AFRAID AND YOU ARE. KILL MY BILL FOR SENATOR DAVIS, KILL EVERY BILL THAT I'VE GOT, DO THE WORST YOU CAN DO, AND I WILL SHOW YOU IT IS NOTHING. THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO ME TO STOP ME FROM DOING AND SAYING WHAT I THINK NEEDS TO BE SAID. KILL EVERY ONE OF THEM. BUT I BET NOT ONE OF YOU WILL PUT YOUR HANDS ON ME. I'M PREPARED FOR ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO. YOU ALL DON'T HAVE TO LIVE LIKE I DO. YOU DON'T FACE WHAT I FACE EVERY DAY DOWN HERE. SO YOU CAN SIT THERE AND SAY, YEAH, I AGREE, I THANK SENATOR McCOY FOR GIVING ME A CHANCE TO THROW A ROCK AT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR CHAMBERS AND HIDE MY HAND, AND I WANT TO JOIN SENATOR McCOY AND THE OTHERS WHO SAID THIS, THAT, AND THE OTHER, HIDING. THAT'S WHY I DO LIKE I DO. I'M TRYING TO PUT SOME BACKBONE IN YOUR SPINE. I WANT PEOPLE IN HERE WHO HAVE SPINES THAT ARE FIRMER THAN AN OVERRIPE BANANA OR JELL-O. I'M TRYING TO PROVOKE YOU INTO STARS OF MANHOOD AND WOMANHOOD BECAUSE YOU DO REPRESENT THIS STATE. YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: BUT INSTEAD, YOU'LL TAKE ALL MORNING TO DO WHAT YOU'RE DOING AND THINK YOU'RE HURTING ME. BUT IF I DID THIS, YOU'D BE GRUMBLING AND MUMBLING ABOUT THE WASTE OF TIME. THERE WAS A WOLF. HE CAME TO THIS SHEPHERD'S HOUSE. HE LOOKED IN THE WINDOW AND HE SAW THEM EATING MUTTON. AND HE SAID, LORD, WHAT WOULD THEY DO IF I WAS DOING THE SAME THING, IF THE WOLF WAS EATING THE MUTTON? IF I WAS TAKING THIS TIME ON SOMETHING LIKE THIS, WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING? WANDERING AROUND, GRUMBLING. BUT WHEN YOU ALL GET TOGETHER IN A MOB AND YOU DO IT ALL TOGETHER, THAT SANCTIFIES IT AND MAKES IT ALL RIGHT. I KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST. AND SINCE SENATOR SCHUMACHER GAVE ME THE TIME, I THANK HIM FOR IT. AND HE HAS GIVEN HIS CLOSE. BUT WHEN SENATOR AL DAVIS GIVES YOU ALL THE OTHER OPPORTUNITY, I'M NOT GOING TO RUN FROM THIS CHAMBER. I'M GOING STAY HERE AND I'M GOING TO CONFRONT YOU. I'M GOING TO FACE YOU AND I'M GOING TO FIGHT YOU ANY WAY THAT YOU CHOOSE. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB70A]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB70A]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I APPRECIATE SENATOR SCHEER AND HIS EFFORT TO MOVE US FORWARD. I DON'T BELIEVE WE'VE QUITE TALKED THIS OUT YET. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF US CALL FOR SENATOR CHAMBERS TO APOLOGIZE. COLLEAGUES, I'M TIRED OF PHONY APOLOGIES. EVERY TIME A POLITICIAN GETS CAUGHT DOING SOMETHING OR SAYING SOMETHING HE SHOULDN'T, THEY RUSH TO THE MIKE AND, IF I HAVE OFFENDED

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

ANYBODY, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE. HOW PHONY CAN YOU GET? THEY DON'T MEAN IT. COLLEAGUES, I HAD AN OCCASION ABOUT A YEAR AGO TO BE UP AT WAYNE STATE COLLEGE. I'M NOT A COLLEGE GRADUATE. I MADE IT THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. I'VE WORKED THE REST OF MY LIFE. AT THE END, WE WERE ASKED TO GIVE SOME ADVICE TO THE STUDENTS THAT WERE AT THIS FORUM. THEY WERE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. AND MY IDEA TO THEM WAS, IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO DO THAT REQUIRES A COLLEGE EDUCATION, BY ALL MEANS, GO TO COLLEGE, GET THAT EDUCATION. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO, IF YOU WANT TO GO START SOME COLLEGE COURSES, THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS A GREAT PLACE TO GET SOME FUNDAMENTALS. IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A COLLEGE EDUCATION, DON'T GO \$100,000 IN DEBT TO GET ONE. AND THEN I SAID, I NEVER ATTENDED A DAY OF COLLEGE IN MY LIFE. AND ONE OF THE PROFESSORS LEANED OVER TO A LADY HE WAS WITH AND SAID, YEAH, AND IT SHOWS. WELL, UNFORTUNATELY FOR THAT PROFESSOR, MY WIFE WAS SITTING BEHIND HIM. SHE RELAYED THAT INFORMATION TO ME. I WENT TO THE LUNCHEON THAT WE HAD AFTERWARDS. WHEN WE WERE DONE EATING, HE CAME RUSHING ACROSS THE ROOM WITH HIS ARM OUT, WANTING TO SHAKE HANDS, TELLING ME HOW GLAD HE WAS I WAS THERE AND WHAT A GREAT JOB I WAS DOING AND WHAT A FINE FELLOW I WAS. AND I SAID, THANK YOU, I'M GLAD YOU APPRECIATE THAT I'M HERE, BUT THE NEXT TIME YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY TO IMPUGN MY EDUCATION, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SEE WHETHER OR NOT MY WIFE IS SITTING CLOSE BY. HIS JAW DROPPED. THE NEXT DAY, I GOT A LETTER SAYING, I'M SORRY, I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT. WELL, HE'S NOT SORRY HE SAID IT. HE'S SORRY MY WIFE WAS SITTING RIGHT BEHIND HIM. BUT DON'T LET'S GO ASKING PEOPLE FOR APOLOGIES THEY DON'T MEAN. SENATOR CHAMBERS, IF HE DECIDES HE OWES SOMEONE AN APOLOGY, HE WILL GIVE IT TO HIM. I ALSO THINK HE WILL NOT GIVE AN APOLOGY THAT HE DOESN'T MEAN, AND GOD BLESS HIM FOR THAT. I'M SICK TO DEATH OF PEOPLE GIVING APOLOGIES THEY DON'T MEAN. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. PERHAPS NOW IT'S TIME WE MOVE ON; PERHAPS THERE'S MORE TO BE SAID. THAT'S UP TO THIS BODY. [LB70A]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SEEING NO OTHERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR SCHUMACHER, NOW YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE. SENATOR SCHUMACHER WAIVES CLOSING. THE QUESTION FOR THE BODY IS, SHALL LB70A ADVANCE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. HAVE ALL VOTED WHO WISH? RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LB70A]

CLERK: 27 AYES, 6 NAYS ON THE ADVANCEMENT OF LB70A. [LB70A]

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

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: LB70A DOES ADVANCE. ITEMS, MR. CLERK. [LB70A]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, VERY QUICKLY, THANK YOU. NEW A BILL, LB472A, BY SENATOR CAMPBELL. (READ LB472A BY TITLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.) SENATOR CAMPBELL WOULD OFFER LR157. THAT WILL BE LAID OVER. SENATOR DAVIS, AN AMENDMENT TO LB106 TO BE PRINTED. THAT'S ALL THAT I HAVE, MR. PRESIDENT. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 997-998.) [LB472A LR157 LB106]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SPEAKER HADLEY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED.

SPEAKER HADLEY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. IT IS MY INTENTION AT 12:30 THAT WE GO TO LR41, WHICH IS A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. WHEN WE FINISH THAT RESOLUTION, WHEN SOME RESOLUTION IS GIVEN TO THAT RESOLUTION, WE WILL ADJOURN FOR THE DAY. THANK YOU. [LR41]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SPEAKER HADLEY. WE WILL NOW MOVE TO THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA, MR. CLERK.

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, FINAL READING. I HAVE A MOTION WITH RESPECT TO LB128. SENATOR DAVIS WOULD MOVE TO BRACKET LB128 UNTIL JUNE 5, 2015. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. MEMBERS OF THE BODY, I HOPE YOU'LL LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY. I GOT UP EARLIER AND WANTED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THIS ACTION THAT IS COMING NOW HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE EARLIER THIS MORNING BUT IS A RESULT OF THE FACT THAT I WASN'T HERE ON SELECT FILE WHEN THIS BILL CAME UP. AND IF IN HAD BEEN, I WOULD HAVE STOOD UP TO TALK ABOUT WHY I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST BAD POLICY. I'VE HANDED OUT A NUMBER OF LETTERS. SINCE THIS BILL CAME UP, I'VE HAD A LOT OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM A LOT OF PEOPLE ALL ACROSS NORTHWEST AND NORTH-CENTRAL NEBRASKA ABOUT THE PRAIRIE DOG PROBLEM. AND WHAT I WANT TO SAY TO EVERYBODY HERE IS, YOU MIGHT THINK THESE ARE ALL KIND OF CUTE LITTLE ANIMALS AND, YOU KNOW, THEY'RE ALL FINE AND DANDY IN THEIR OWN SPACE.

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

AND IF SOMEBODY LIKES TO HAVE THEM ON THEIR PROPERTY, THAT'S GREAT, EXCEPT THAT THEY MIGRATE AND MOVE. AND WHEN THEY MIGRATE AND MOVE, THEY MOVE ON TO THE NEIGHBOR. AND ONCE THEY MOVE ON TO THE NEIGHBOR, THEN THE NEIGHBOR HAS THE PROBLEM. AND DEALING WITH PRAIRIE DOGS IS AN ONGOING AND LIFELONG THING FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE. SO AS TIME GOES BY AND YOU TAKE CARE OF YOUR PRAIRIE DOG PROBLEM ON YOUR RANCH, BUT YOUR NEIGHBOR SITS NEXT DOOR AND DOES NOTHING WITH HIS, THEN EVERY YEAR YOU'RE BACK WORKING ON THE PRAIRIE DOG PROBLEM. AND OVER MANY, MANY YEARS, THAT BECOMES VERY EXPENSIVE, VERY BURDENSOME, AND VERY TIME CONSUMING. SO SENATOR LOUDEN BROUGHT A BILL A FEW YEARS AGO TO TRY TO GIVE THE COUNTY SOME AUTHORITY TO TAKE CHARGE OF PRAIRIE DOGS. SO IN SITUATIONS WHERE THE NEIGHBOR JUST IS NOT DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM, THE COUNTY CAN COME IN AND ASSESS A FEE AND POISON THE PRAIRIE DOGS THEMSELVES. SO SOME WILL SAY THAT THIS IS A LANDOWNER ISSUE BETWEEN LANDOWNERS. I SAY IT'S AN ISSUE OF PESTS AND IT ISN'T A BIT DIFFERENT THAN A WEED CONTROL PROBLEM. SO IF A NEIGHBOR HAS WEEDS ON THEIR PROPERTY AND THOSE WEEDS AREN'T TAKEN CARE OF, THOSE WEEDS GET TO THE NEIGHBOR'S RANCH, NEIGHBOR'S FARM. THEN IT'S THE NEIGHBOR'S RESPONSIBILITY. SO THE STATE SOME YEARS AGO PUT LAWS INTO EFFECT THAT...AND ESTABLISHED WEED BOARDS IN COUNTIES WHICH GAVE THE WEED AUTHORITY THE AUTHORITY TO GO IN AND SPRAY AND DEAL WITH THE WEED PROBLEM ON THE NEIGHBORS BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IF YOU COME FROM FARM COUNTRY, YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T LET THESE WEEDS GET OUT OF CONTROL. I HAVE, YOU KNOW, KNOWN ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS MY WHOLE LIFE, BUT I'M JUST GOING TO SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN COLORADO WHERE THERE ARE A LOT OF DOGS. THEY'RE RIGHT ON THE CITY STREETS IN AURORA, COLORADO. THEY BUILD IN THE PARKING. THEY BUILD THROUGH THE PARKS. AND THE CITY CONTROLS THOSE. AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE BECAUSE THEY SHOULD. ONLY ONE COUNTY RIGHT NOW HAS A PLAN IN PLACE, AND THAT'S SHERIDAN COUNTY, TO TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM. AND IF YOU LOOK AT SOME OF THE NOTES THAT I PASSED OUT-- I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO THAT--THE FIRST PIECE IS A LETTER FROM JACK ANDERSEN WHO HAPPENS TO BE A COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, LIVES DOWN IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE. I'M NOT GOING TO READ THE WHOLE THING TO YOU. I'M JUST GOING TO SAY WHAT HE SAID IN HIS...ALMOST THE LAST PARAGRAPH: WE ARE NOT TRYING TO ERADICATE PRAIRIE DOGS. WE ARE TRYING TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY THEM AND GIVE SOME RELIEF TO OUR RANCHERS IN AREA WHERE INFESTATIONS ARE A REAL PROBLEM. AND IF YOU TURN THAT PAGE OVER AND LOOK AT THE BACKSIDE OF IT, AND I WISH EVERYONE WOULD DO THAT, YOU CAN SEE WHAT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

HAPPENS AND WHY THESE PRAIRIE DOG ISSUES BECOME REAL THORNS BETWEEN NEIGHBORS. SO YOU'VE GOT THIS MAP, AND THIS IS NOT IN COLOR, BUT YOU CAN SEE IT ON THE BOTTOM PARTS OF IT, WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE HAPPENS WITH PRAIRIE DOGS. SO, YOU KNOW, THIS REALLY ISN'T ALL ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS, BECAUSE THEY BRING IN OTHER CRITTERS. SO THEY BRING IN BADGERS, WHO DIG BIGGER HOLES. AND ON A FALL/WINTER DAY, YOU KNOW, WHEN IT'S WARM OUTSIDE, YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF RATTLESNAKES LYING OUTSIDE THOSE DENS. SO IF LIVESTOCK WALK THROUGH THERE OR PEOPLE WALK THROUGH THERE, THEY CAN BE BITTEN BY THE SNAKES. IT'S REALLY APPROPRIATE TO LET PEOPLE IN CERTAIN RURAL PARTS OF THE STATE DEAL WITH THEIR RURAL ISSUES. SO, YOU KNOW, THIS IS NOT AN URBAN ISSUE. I KNOW A LOT OF THE URBAN SENATORS VOTED TO MOVE THIS BILL FORWARD FROM GENERAL FILE, BUT I'D ASK THEM TO THINK ABOUT HOW THIS IS A WHOLE-STATE PROBLEM. AND JUST BECAUSE IT'S NOT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT'S A PROBLEM SOMEWHERE ELSE IN THE STATE THAT YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH AND LOOK AT. SO I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF OTHER LETTERS HERE THAT I THINK ARE APPROPRIATE. AND THE NEXT ONE IS FROM MR. DANIEL (SIC--DONALD) DREYER WHO IS A LANDOWNER IN SHERIDAN COUNTY. AND THIS IS WHAT HE WROTE TO ME. HE SAID: TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN, MY APPROXIMATE COST FOR CONTROL OF PRAIRIE DOGS ON MY PROPERTY OVER THE LAST 20 YEARS IS \$2,000-3,000 PER YEAR. LAST YEAR, CHECK NUMBER 5614 TO MIDWEST FERTILIZER FOR ROZOL WAS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,132. WITH...AND THEN HE GOES AND TALKS ABOUT THE ISSUES WITH HIS NEIGHBORS AND HOW HE FIGHTS THEM ALL THE TIME. SO HE SAYS, APPROXIMATE ACRES I HAVE TO POISON TWO TIMES A YEAR IS 620 ACRES. WITHOUT CONTROL, MY PASTURE IS ALMOST WORTHLESS, FROM A GRAZING STANDPOINT, DUE TO LACK OF GRASS. THE MOUNDS AND HOLES HAVE CAUSED RISKS FOR CATTLE. I ALSO HAVE THE THREAT OF PASTEURELLA PESTIS. MOVE DOWN A FEW MORE PARAGRAPHS AND HE TALKS ABOUT HOW HE'S WILLING TO CONTROL THIS ON MY OWN, "AT MY OWN EXPENSE," BUT IF THERE'S NO LEGISLATION FROM LB473 TO ALSO FORCE ADJACENT LANDOWNERS TO CONTROL, FOR ME TO DO SO IS EXPENSIVE. IT'S A LOSING BATTLE. THEIR LAND IS THE ORIGIN OF THE ENCROACHMENT OF THE PRAIRIE DOGS ONTO MY LAND. IF THERE'S NO REPEAL, THEN I WILL BE WILLING TO MAINTAIN PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL ON MY LAND, AGAIN, AT MY OWN EXPENSE. AND THEN THE LAST ONE IS A PLAN THAT WAS PUT...ANOTHER LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO ME BY KRISTI PAUL WHO IS THE SHERIDAN COUNTY WEED SUPERINTENDENT. AND IT TALKS ABOUT THE PLAN THAT'S IN PLACE IN SHERIDAN COUNTY. AND I THINK THE PERTINENT PART OF IT, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS SHE TALKS ABOUT IN COLUMN...PARAGRAPH THREE. SHE TALKS ABOUT THE COSTS. AND SHE SAID, IF

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

A LANDOWNER AGREES TO THE CONTROL, IT WILL COST \$10-15 PER ACRE. SO ON A SECTION OF GROUND, THAT'S \$32,000. WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT CHEAP COST. PASTURE RENT MAY BE, YOU KNOW, \$30 OR \$25 AN ACRE, SO YOU'RE SPENDING ALMOST YOUR ENTIRE YEAR'S CASH TO TREAT ONE ACRE OF PRAIRIE DOGS. IF THE NEIGHBORS AREN'T GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THEM, SOMEBODY NEEDS TO DO THAT BECAUSE IT'S A PUBLIC NUISANCE. THE PLAN THAT THEY HAVE IN PLACE, THIS IS NUMBER...PARAGRAPH FIVE OF KRISTI PAUL'S LETTER TO ME. SHE SAID, WE ALSO WROTE THIS PLAN TO INCLUDE THE OPTION OF A LANDOWNER WHO DESIRES TO HAVE PRAIRIE DOGS ON HIS OR HER PROPERTY, WHO MAY DO SO, BUT THEY MUST CONTROL A BUFFER ZONE TO KEEP THE PRAIRIE DOGS FROM ENCROACHMENT UPON A NEIGHBOR WHO DOES NOT WANT THEM. I THINK THAT'S JUST REASONABLE. AND I THINK THE BODY REALLY NEEDS TO RETHINK THEIR SUPPORT FOR THIS BILL OF SENATOR CHAMBERS'. AND I THINK WE SHOULD INDEFINITELY BRACKET THE BILL UNTIL THE END OF THE SESSION BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT'S APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION. WHAT SENATOR LOUDEN DID WAS A GOOD THING FOR RURAL NEBRASKA AND IT'S A GOOD THING FOR NEBRASKA. YOU KNOW, DON'T EXPECT RURAL FOLKS TO JUST CONSTANTLY BEAR ALL THE COSTS WHEN THEIR NEIGHBORS ARE IRRESPONSIBLE. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128 LB473]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING TO THE MOTION TO BRACKET. (VISITOR INTRODUCED.) THOSE IN THE QUEUE WISHING TO SPEAK ARE SENATORS CHAMBERS, JOHNSON, HUGHES, AND OTHERS. SENATOR CHAMBERS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: THANK YOU. MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE, I WILL SPEAK ONE TIME. AS I SAID EARLIER, YOU DO WHATEVER YOU WANT TO WITH THIS BILL. IT CAME OUT OF THE AG COMMITTEE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES. THERE WERE FARMERS, THE FARMERS UNION, LANDOWNERS WHO TALKED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS THAT THIS LEGISLATION HAS. SOME PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO RAISE ORGANIC CROPS WOULD LOSE ALL OF THEIR RIGHT TO DO THAT IF ANY OF THAT POISON LANDED ON THEIR GROUND. YOU PUT THE BILL TO FINAL READING. IT SHOULD BE PASSED. BUT MORE IS AT STAKE HERE TODAY. THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GOING TO ARGUE THIS AS THOUGH IT WERE A LEGITIMATE AMENDMENT OR OFFERING. AND I TOLD SENATOR DAVIS, WHEN I TALKED TO HIM THIS MORNING, WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY ON THE FLOOR IN GENERAL. SENATOR DAVIS HAS COME TO ME ON ANY NUMBER OF OCCASIONS SEEKING MY ADVICE, COUNSEL, HELP, AND SO FORTH, WHICH I WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO GIVE. HE'D GOTTEN PASSED OVER IN A WAY ON SOME ISSUES BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE BOARD THAT I THOUGHT WAS

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

INAPPROPRIATE. AND I'M THE ONE WHO STOOD ON THE FLOOR AND CONDEMNED THE WAY THAT PROCESS WAS BEING MISUSED. AND I HELPED SENATOR DAVIS GET SOMETHING THAT HE WANTED. AND HE COULD COME TO ME FOR THAT. WHEN HE DID THIS, HE DIDN'T TELL ME, HE DIDN'T COME TO ME TO TELL ME HE WAS GOING TO DO THIS. NOBODY NEEDS MY PERMISSION TO DO ANYTHING. BUT WHEN SOMEBODY CAN COME TO ME ON SO MANY OCCASIONS, SEEKING SOMETHING FROM ME AND GETTING IT, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME THAT IT WOULD BE TOO HARD TO JUST SAY--ERNIE, I'M GOING TO TRY TO KILL YOUR BILL. ANYBODY CAN TRY ANYTHING THEY WANT TO. SO I'M JUST GOING TO WATCH HOW THE LEGISLATURE DECIDES TO SET THE TONE FOR THE REST OF THE SESSION. BUT MY BILL IS NOT THE ONLY ONE ON FINAL READING. I KNOW THAT THERE'S SOME PEOPLE WHO REALLY WANT LB106, AND I TOLD MANY OF THE RURAL PEOPLE WHO CALLED ME, OR THEY'RE AGAINST LB106, SOME OF THE RURAL PEOPLE THAT I WOULD WORK ON THAT BILL AND TRY TO STOP IT. I'M GOING TO WATCH WHAT HAPPENS TODAY, AND I'M GOING TO LET THE RURAL PEOPLE STOP IT ON THEIR OWN IF THIS BILL IS NOT PASSED. I OFFERED A LITTLE RHYME THIS MORNING AND THERE IS SOMETIMES A MESSAGE ON THE LINE, MEANING THE WORDS MEAN WHAT THEY SAY. BUT THERE'S ALSO A MESSAGE SOMETIMES BETWEEN THE LINES. AND THE TOPIC OF...THE TITLE OF THAT WAS "TORT AND RETORT." WHAT HAPPENS ON THIS BILL IS THE TORT. AND WHAT I DO ABOUT IT IS THE RETORT. AND PEOPLE HAVE SUGGESTED TO ME WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO TO MY BILLS AND WHY. SO I'M JUST SAYING THAT I WILL ACCEPT IT. ALL I NEED TO KNOW IS WHAT THE RULES OF THE GAME ARE. AND I'LL PLAY BY THOSE RULES AND, ULTIMATELY, I WILL WIN. AS SENATOR...HE'S NOT EVEN HERE, BUT HE MIGHT BE SOME PLACE, SENATOR LARSON WOULD INDICATE--IF YOU'RE SITTING AT THE CARD TABLE, YOU MIGHT LOSE A HAND BUT THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE GAME. YOU SUPPORTED THIS BILL, THE ARGUMENTS FOR IT WERE GIVEN. THEY WERE VALID. AND I'M JUST GOING TO SIT BACK...WELL I'LL STAND BECAUSE I DON'T SIT, AND WATCH WHAT HAPPENS. AS I'VE SAID BEFORE, BY THE WAY, LINCOLN HAD ONE OF THE KEENEST SENSE OF HUMORS OF ANYBODY IN PUBLIC LIFE THAT I'VE EVER READ ABOUT. BUT HE'S ALSO ONE OF THE SADDEST, MOST MELANCHOLY, MOROSE PERSONS IN PUBLIC OFFICE BECAUSE HE RECOGNIZED THE SERIOUSNESS OF WHAT WAS AT STAKE. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO DO AND HOW DIFFICULT IT WAS TO DO IT. BUT HE NEVER LOST HIS SENSE OF HUMOR. SEE THIS CHAIR? I HAVEN'T SAT IN THIS CHAIR IN YEARS. SO UNLIKE OTHER PLACES WHERE THEY CAN SAY--SO AND SO SLEPT HERE, AND THAT'S A COME-ON FOR IT, THEY CAN

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

PUT ON MY CHAIR WHEN I'M GONE, SENATOR CHAMBERS NEVER SAT HERE. AND THAT'S ALL I'M GOING TO SAY ON THIS BILL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. AS A PERSON THAT SAT ON THE AG COMMITTEE THE LAST TWO YEARS, AND NOW I CHAIRED THE COMMITTEE THE YEAR WE'RE IN, SPEAK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT I KNOW OF THE HISTORY OF IT. I KNOW THE BILL WAS WRITTEN A FEW YEARS AGO. IT'S KIND OF SURPRISING TO ME THAT ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS ACCEPTED THIS, EVEN THOUGH THE...NACO, THE PEOPLE THAT OPPOSED THIS REPEAL TESTIFIED, YOU KNOW, AGAINST THE REPEAL, ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS ADOPTED IT. NOW I SPEAK WITH SOME RISK ON THIS BECAUSE MY SON-IN-LAW, THEIR FAMILY, THEY LOST A BULL, STEPPED IN A PRAIRIE DOG HOLE. OUR DAUGHTER HAS BEEN CERTIFIED TO GO OUT ON HER OWN...OR ON THEIR OWN, TO BE ABLE TO USE THE POISON, THAT'S ONE WAY TO CONTROL THE PRAIRIE DOGS. THERE'S OBLIGATIONS TO THAT. WITH THAT POISON, YOU GOT TO GO OUT PERIODICALLY, AND I'M NOT SURE, I THINK IT'S WITHIN 24 HOURS AND PICK UP THE DEAD ANIMALS SO THAT POISON DOES NOT GO INTO OTHER ANIMALS AS THEY MIGHT PICK UP THE PRAIRIE DOG. THE ISSUE THAT I FEEL THAT THE COMMITTEE LOOKED AT WAS THE FACT OF PROPERTY RIGHTS. TESTIFIERS CAME IN AND SAID THERE'S OTHER WAYS TO CONTROL. I DON'T THINK THE WORD "ERADICATE" EVER REALLY CAME INTO THE PICTURE. SOME PEOPLE DID, PROBABLY, BRING IT UP. BUT I THINK IT'S PROPERTY RIGHTS IS THE MAIN CONCERN OF WHY THIS BILL MOVED FORWARD. I'LL BE CHAIR OF THE AG COMMITTEE AGAIN NEXT YEAR. AND IF THERE IS A SOLUTION, IF THIS BILL MOVES THROUGH ON FINAL READING, PRAIRIE DOG ERADICATION ACT IS...MANAGEMENT ACT IS REPEALED, I WOULD ENTERTAIN A BILL THAT WOULD LOOK AT THIS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE AND ELIMINATE THE ISSUE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS AND SEE IF WE CAN'T COME TO A SOLUTION. AGAIN, THE REASON I BELIEVE THIS MOVED FORWARD THIS YEAR, IT DIDN'T MOVE FORWARD LAST YEAR, THE CHAIRMAN LAST YEAR WAS AT THE HEARING, AT THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, BUT DID NOT VOTE, SO MIGHT HAVE OTHER FEELINGS ON THIS. I FELT IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO MOVE THE WAY THE COMMITTEE WAS MOVING AND THAT'S WHY I SPEAK TODAY ASKING THAT YOU...WE CONTINUE TO APPROVE THIS ON FINAL READING. AND WE, AGAIN, CAN LOOK AT IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR IF THAT'S THE DESIRE OF THE BODY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE TODAY IN OPPOSITION TO LB128. AS A FARMER, I HAVE FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DESTRUCTIVE ABILITY OF THIS RODENT. IT'S NOT A PRAIRIE DOG, IT SHOULD BE CALLED A PRAIRIE RAT. THEY DIG DEEP HOLES AND THEY ARE VERY DESTRUCTIVE TO PROPERTY. BUT THIS BILL IS ABOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS. THIS IS A BILL WHERE IF MY NEIGHBOR DOESN'T CONTROL, BE IT A RODENT, IN THIS CASE, IT IS A RODENT, OR IF IT WAS LIKE NOXIOUS WEEDS, LIKE SENATOR DAVIS SAID, THERE'S REMEDY. THERE'S THE OPPORTUNITY YOU CAN GO TO THE COUNTY AND SEEK A REMEDY. I'M FORTUNATE WHERE I GREW UP, WE DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF PASTURELAND. IT WAS MOSTLY FARMLAND. WE HAD SMALL PIECES OF PASTURE THAT DID HAVE PRAIRIE DOGS ON THEM. SOME OF MY FONDEST MEMORIES AS A CHILD WAS SHOOTING PRAIRIE DOGS WITH MY SISTER. I ENJOYED THAT. THEY ARE A RODENT. THEY ARE LIKE A SKUNK OR A BADGER. THEY CAUSE DAMAGE TO OUR PROPERTY. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE MAINTAIN THE THINGS THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE TO PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS. WE HAVE INDIVIDUALS OUT THERE THAT DO NOT CARE AS MUCH FOR THEIR LAND AS WHAT OTHERS DO. I'VE GOT A COUPLE OF PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS CLOSE TO ME NOW. AND I'VE HAD TO GO OUT AND POISON THEM ON MY PROPERTY BECAUSE THEY MIGRATE. THEY'RE VERY PROLIFIC MULTIPLIERS. IT DOESN'T TAKE LONG IN A SMALL PASTURE FOR THEM TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE THEIR FOOD SUPPLY, WHICH IS THE GRASS, IS USED UP AND THEY BEGIN MIGRATING LOOKING FOR OTHER HABITAT. AT THAT POINT, I'VE GONE AND BOUGHT POISON MYSELF TO KEEP THEM OFF MY PROPERTY. IN THE DAYS WHEN WE DID TILLAGE, YOU CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS NOT CONDUCIVE FOR PRAIRIE DOGS, THEY DON'T LIKE IT, THEY DON'T NORMALLY STAY. BUT SINCE WE'VE GONE TO NO-TILL, THE CONDITIONS HAVE CHANGED, AND THE PRAIRIE DOGS HAVE BECOME MORE INVASIVE IN MY FARMLAND. AND BECAUSE OF MY TWO NEIGHBORS THAT HAVE TWO SMALL PASTURES THAT ARE COMPLETELY OVERRUN WITH PRAIRIE DOGS, I'M FORCED TO BUY POISON TO KEEP THEM OUT OF MY PROPERTY, BECAUSE WHEN I'M COMBINING OR SPRAYING OR PLANTING, THOSE HOLES CAN BE VERY DESTRUCTIVE IF YOU DON'T SWERVE TO MISS THEM. THEY CAN BREAK YOUR EQUIPMENT. IT'S VERY UNFORTUNATE THAT THE ACTIONS OF A NEIGHBOR CAUSE US TO PASS LAWS TO PROTECT PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND THAT'S WHAT THIS BILL IS. I WOULD URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR THE BRACKET...OR TO BRACKET THIS BILL UNTIL JUNE 5. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. WHEN THIS BILL FIRST CAME TO THE FLOOR, I SPOKE AGAINST IT. AND I'LL SPEAK AGAINST IT FOR THE SAME REASON. THE PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL ACT WAS GIVEN TO THE COUNTIES AS A TOOL. AND YOU'RE RIGHT, ONE COUNTY HAS EXERCISED IT. BUT I THINK THE OTHER COUNTIES WITH THEIR ABILITY TO HAVE ACCESS TO IT HAS PROBABLY PREVENTED THEM FROM HAVING TO USE IT. PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO WORK A LITTLE BIT MORE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. BUT LET ME...WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS, I'M JUST GOING TO READ YOU SOME STATUTES FROM THE CITY OF LINCOLN HERE CONCERNING PROPERTY RIGHTS. AND THIS JUST HAS TO DEAL WITH WEEDS, WHICH CAN'T SNEAK UNDER THE FENCE OR DIG HOLES IN YOUR LAWN, BUT THEY CAN SNEAK ACROSS. BUT THEY TALK ABOUT HERE ON A PUBLICATION, POSTING, OR MAILING OF A NOTICE SHALL BE DEEMED PROPER SERVICE OF THE NOTICE FOR THIS PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION. UPON FAILURE OF THE OWNER TO CONDUCT CONTROL ACTIVITY ON THE PROPERTY WITHIN THE NOTICE PERIOD, THE WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY MAY ENTER THE PROPERTY, CONDUCT CONTROL ACTIVITY NECESSARY TO COMPLY WITH PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER. THE WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY SHALL SEND AN INVOICE FOR THE CONTROL ACTIVITY TO THE OWNER WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS OF THE CONTROL ACTIVITY. WITHIN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS OF ANY CONTROL ACTIVITY, THE WEED CONTROL AUTHORITY SHALL RECORD WITH THE LANCASTER COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS A NOTICE OF POTENTIAL LIEN ON THE PROPERTY CONTROLLED. THE NOTICE SHALL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, AND WE CAN KEEP GOING. CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES, VILLAGES HAVE HAD THESE RIGHTS FOR YEARS. DO WE ALSO WANT TO WITHDRAW THOSE RIGHTS? DO WE WANT NEIGHBORS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ON THEIR PROPERTY? DO YOU WANT YOUR NEIGHBOR TO COLLECT JUNK? IF HE LETS HIS WEEDS GO, IF PRAIRIE DOGS MOVE IN, THAT'S FINE WITH YOU, TOO? PRAIRIE DOGS WERE ONCE FOUND ALL ACROSS THE STATE. THEY HAVE BEEN ERADICATED IN PARTS OF THE STATE. BUT IF YOUR NEIGHBOR DOESN'T CONTROL HIS WEEDS OR KEEP JUNK CLEANED UP, ARE THOSE PROPERTY RIGHTS EXCLUSIVE? DO YOUR NEIGHBORS...ARE YOU OKAY WITH THAT, TOO? OR DO YOU WANT SOMEONE TO BE ABLE TO STEP IN AND CONTROL THOSE SPECIES OR WEEDS OR WHATEVER THOSE NEEDS MAY BE? WE HAVE TO HAVE SOME RULE OF LAW TO WHERE WE PROTECT NEIGHBORS' RIGHTS ALSO. SO I SPEAK IN FAVOR OF THE MOTION TO BRACKET. I DON'T THINK THIS BILL IS NEEDED. THANK YOU. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR FRIESEN. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU. I RISE IN SUPPORT OF LB128 AND I TAKE OFFENSE AT SENATOR DAVIS' WORDS THAT I AS AN URBAN SENATOR CANNOT WORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS IN RURAL NEBRASKA. THAT UPSETS ME VERY MUCH. I AM A NEBRASKAN. I COME FROM THE SMALLEST DISTRICT IN THE STATE. AND THAT'S A GOOD THING, AND I'M HAPPY TO BE WHERE I'M FROM. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T RESPECT WHAT HAPPENS OUT THERE AND THAT I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS OUT THERE, THAT I DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT GOES ON OUT THERE. HE PRODUCES A LETTER FROM A GUY IN COLORADO AND THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE MORE VALUE THAN ME, AN URBAN SENATOR. WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE CHASTISING OTHER SENATORS ABOUT WHAT THEY SAID, DIDN'T SAY, AND WE'VE BEEN SITTING HIGH ON OUR HORSE ABOUT HOW GOSH-DARN GREAT WE ARE. WELL LET'S RESPECT EACH OTHER THEN, LET'S RESPECT THIS INSTITUTION, LET'S RESPECT THIS BODY. AND WHILE WE'RE DOING RESPECT, LET'S RESPECT PROPERTY RIGHTS. DO YOU WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO COME IN AND TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO ON YOUR PROPERTY? THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. NOW, THIS IS BASED ON NOXIOUS WEEDS, WHICH BY DEFINITION, THESE WEEDS ARE NOXIOUS. THEY ARE NOT INDIGENOUS TO THIS AREA, THEY ARE NOT PART OF OUR HABITAT. THEY DIDN'T COME HERE UNTIL THE WHITE MAN CAME, I DON'T KNOW, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT RACE TODAY, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD THROW THAT IN. BUT THEY CAME, AND IT'S HERE, AND I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY HOURS AS A KID I SPENT SPRAYING AND KILLING RUSSIAN THISTLES. I HATED THE RUSSIANS NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE COMMUNIST BECAUSE THEY BROUGHT THISTLES. ALL RIGHT? THAT'S MY YOUTH. I GET THE NOXIOUS WEEDS. WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS PRAIRIE DOGS; THEY'RE MORE THAN JUST CUTE. THEY SERVE A PURPOSE, THEY EAT THE ROOTS. YOU'RE RIGHT ON THE GRASS, THEY DO A GREAT JOB. AND GUESS WHAT THAT DOES, IT CREATES NEW LIFE AND NEW VEGETATION AND FRESH GROWTH. THEY WERE HERE BEFORE WE WERE, FOLKS, AND UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING RADICAL, UNLESS WE KILL THEM OFF, THEY'LL BE HERE LONG AFTER WE ARE. THEY SERVE AN ENVIRONMENTAL PURPOSE. DO THEY NEED TO BE CONTROLLED? YES. IF I DON'T WANT IT ON MY PROPERTY, GUESS WHAT? WE CAN DO WHAT SENATOR JOHNSON'S SON-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER ARE DOING, WE CAN ERADICATE THEM ON OUR PROPERTY. BUT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO COME IN AND TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO ON MY PROPERTY, NOT FOR THE GREATER GOOD, BECAUSE MAYBE I WANT THEM ON MY PROPERTY, BUT NOW THE GOVERNMENT IS SAYING, HEY, SOMETHING AS INDIGENOUS TO THIS AREA, THAT'S A PART OF WHO WE ARE, A PART OF OUR

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

VERY HERITAGE, WE CAN SAY YOU CAN KILL THEM OFF. THE NEBRASKA TOURISM HAS POSTERS OUT; I HAVE THEM HANGING IN MY OFFICE. ONE OF THE THINGS THEY BRAG ABOUT--PRAIRIE DOGS. WHY? BECAUSE THEY'RE INDIGENOUS TO THIS AREA. THEY ARE PART OF NEBRASKA. IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM IN COLORADO, WRITE A LETTER, THAT'S GREAT, AND MOVE TO COLORADO, BUT YOU ALREADY LIVE THERE, SO IT'S OKAY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE SOME COSTS. AND IF YOU HAVE CATTLE AND IT'S AN ISSUE, YOU CAN ERADICATE ON YOUR LAND. I'M NOT STOPPING YOU FROM DOING THAT. I'M NOT SITTING HERE TELLING YOU WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T DO ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY. LB128 IS ABOUT WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN TELL YOU YOU CAN AND CANNOT DO ON YOUR PROPERTY. AND THERE HAD BETTER BE A GOOD PUBLIC POLICY REASON IF THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO COME ON MY LAND AND TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO WITH MY LAND. I DON'T SEE THAT PUBLIC POLICY PURPOSE. BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM ON YOUR LAND, YOU CAN STOP THEM. IF YOU WANT THEM ON YOUR LAND, YOU CAN KEEP THEM. THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT, FOLKS. I UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S AN INCONVENIENCE. THAT'S GREAT. KILL THEM OFF. EVERY SPRING, YOU KNOW WHAT I DO? I TAKE... [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: ...THANK YOU...THE HOLLOW POINTS, AND JUST LIKE SENATOR HUGHES, I GO AND SHOOT THEM. AND IT'S A HECK OF A LOT OF FUN. THE HOLLOW POINTS--THEY EXPLODE, IT'S FUN AND IT'S A WAY OF ERADICATING THEM. AND THOSE AREN'T IN MY YOUTH, THOSE ARE IN MY LAST SPRING. I STILL HAVE FUN DOING THAT. AND IT'S A WAY OF DEALING WITH IT. BUT WE HAVE TO DECIDE IF I'M AN ORGANIC FARMER AND I HAVE A PRAIRIE DOG, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO MAKE A DECISION--DO I WANT TO LOSE MY ORGANIC STATUS OR HOW DO I GET RID OF THIS PRAIRIE DOG? ARE THERE ORGANIC WAYS TO GET RID OF PRAIRIE DOGS? AND THE ANSWER IS THERE ARE THAT TOO. BUT I DON'T WANT THE GOVERNMENT COMING IN AND TAKING AWAY MY ORGANIC STATUS CERTIFICATION TO KILL OFF THESE PRAIRIE DOGS. SO I STAND IN FULL SUPPORT AS A PERSON FROM THE CITY WHO MAKES STATE POLICY IN FAVOR OF LB128. THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I WAS GOING TO STAND UP AND TALK ABOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS. I THINK SENATOR

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

HARR PRETTY WELL COVERED THAT. THIS IS WHAT I MENTIONED EARLIER. DO WHAT YOU WILL ON YOUR PROPERTY. YOU DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO COME ON MINE TO KILL ANIMALS I MAY CHOOSE TO HAVE THERE. COLLEAGUES, I WAS AROUND FOUR YEARS AGO ON THE AG COMMITTEE WHEN THIS BILL PASSED. I QUESTIONED AT THAT TIME THE INVASION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS. I ENDED UP SUPPORTING THE BILL TO PUT THIS LAW IN PLACE IN PART AS A FAVOR TO SENATOR LOUDEN WHO WAS IN HIS LAST YEAR HERE. I WAS MISTAKEN IN DOING SO. OOPS--I MADE A MISTAKE. THAT'S NEVER HAPPENED HERE BEFORE TO ANYBODY. BUT IT DOES HAPPEN. LB128 IS AN EFFORT TO CHANGE THAT MISTAKE THAT WE MADE. IT NEEDS TO HAPPEN. MOST OF US IN HERE OWN A LITTLE PIECE OF PROPERTY SOMEWHERE, AND WE DON'T WANT THE STATE OR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COMING IN TELLING US EVERYTHING WE SHOULD DO. HOW HIGH DO WE CUT OUR GRASS? CITIES DO THAT. I CAN'T LIVE IN THE CITY ANYMORE BECAUSE I CAN'T HAVE ANYBODY TELLING ME HOW TALL MY GRASS SHOULD BE. I ALSO CAN'T HAVE THE COUNTY TELLING ME THAT THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO COME IN AND POISON ANIMALS ON MY PROPERTY. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAS SAID HE WASN'T GOING TO SPEAK ON THIS ANYMORE. I WONDER IF WE WOULD BE WILLING TO YIELD TO A QUESTION ON THIS. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR CHAMBERS, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB128]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: YES. [LB128]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU HAVE, IN THE PAST, EXPLAINED VERY WELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PROCEDURE USED TO ERADICATE WEEDS AND THE LAWS THAT APPLY TO THAT AND WHAT WE HAVE DONE HERE. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO MAKE THAT EXPLANATION AGAIN? [LB128]

SENATOR CHAMBERS: WELL, I'M NOT AN EXPERT, BUT WHEN YOU HAVE A NOXIOUS WEED, THE PURPOSE IS TO COMPLETELY DESTROY THAT PLANT, ROOT AND BRANCH, SO THAT IT WILL NOT ONLY STOP GROWING HERE BUT IT WILL NEVER GROW AGAIN. THAT PLANT IS AN INVASIVE SPECIES, IT DOESN'T BELONG HERE, GOT HERE SOMEWHERE, AS SENATOR HARR EXPLAINED. THESE ANIMALS BELONG HERE. THERE USED TO BE LITERALLY BILLIONS OF THEM, IT'S FELT. BUT MORE THAN 90 PERCENT OF THEM HAVE BEEN ERADICATED, BUT THEY CONTINUE TO EXIST BECAUSE THEY ARE INDIGENOUS OR NATIVE TO NEBRASKA. THEY PROVIDE A FOOD SOURCE FOR ANY NUMBER OF OTHER ANIMALS, RESIDENCES FOR THEM, AND THEY SERVE THAT PURPOSE THAT GIVES

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

THAT BALANCE TO NATURE OR THE ECOLOGY WHICH WAS INTENDED. SO IF YOU USE THE NOXIOUS WEED MODEL, THE PURPOSE OF THAT IS TOTAL ERADICATION, AND IN THE CASE OF ANIMALS IS CALLED EXTERMINATION. AND THAT'S WHAT THEY ARE PUSHING FOR WITH THIS LEGISLATION THAT'S ON THE BOOKS, AND IT'S WHY I THINK OTHER COUNTIES HAVE NOT ACCEPTED IT. [LB128]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, SENATOR CHAMBERS. COLLEAGUES, I DON'T KNOW IF ANY OF YOU ARE TEMPTED TO CHANGE YOUR VOTE BECAUSE OF THE CONVERSATION WE HAD HERE THIS MORNING. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: I WOULD ASK THAT YOU DO NOT DO SO. THE PASSAGE OF LB128 CAME OUT OF AG COMMITTEE WITH NO DISSENTING VOTES, IT'S PASSED THIS BODY TWICE NOW. THERE'S NO REASON TO STOP ITS PROGRESS NOW. THIS NEEDS TO HAPPEN. PEOPLE NEED TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO ON THEIR PROPERTY AS THEY WISH. IF YOU OWN THE PROPERTY WHERE YOU THINK THE NEIGHBOR'S DOGS ARE COMING IN, PUT A LITTLE POISON OUT ON YOUR PROPERTY, DON'T SCATTER IT ON HIS. THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I AM SO IMPRESSED WITH SENATOR HARR'S INCREDIBLE ACTING SKILL AND HIS VIGILANCE AND FIRE, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF SENATOR JOHNSON WOULD YIELD TO A QUESTION. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR JOHNSON, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: YES, I WILL. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: SENATOR JOHNSON, YOU MADE REFERENCE TO SOME ISSUES OF PROPERTY RIGHTS. CAN YOU ELABORATE ON WHAT THAT WAS IN THE HEARING? I'M NOT ON THE AG COMMITTEE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT CAME UP. [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: WELL, ALLOWING THE GOVERNMENT TO COME IN...LET'S SAY I HAVE PRAIRIE DOGS ON MY FARM AND MY NEIGHBORS HAVE SOME, AND I

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

WANT TO ERADICATE IT. I CAN GO THERE, AND THEY CAN IMPOSE THIS BILL, THE WAY I UNDERSTAND IT, ON THEIR PROPERTY, OR I CAN GO ON THAT PROPERTY AND ERADICATE OR TO CONTROL THE PRAIRIE DOGS. I THINK WE CAN DO IT ON OUR OWN. I THINK YOU GO ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR--LET'S WORK TOGETHER ON THIS AND CONTROL THEM, ERADICATE THEM, OR WHATEVER. BUT GOING BACK TO, I GUESS, THE EDITORIAL PART OF IT, I JUST DON'T THINK WE NEED THE GOVERNMENT OUT THERE HAVING THAT AUTHORITY TO DO THAT. I THINK WE CAN DO IT ON OUR OWN. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: SO, SENATOR JOHNSON, WE'VE HEARD REFERENCE TO THE WEED LAWS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE WEED LAWS? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: I UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A NOXIOUS WEED, AND, YEAH, I THINK MOST OF US...THERE'S NOT ONLY RUSSIAN THISTLE, BUT THERE'S A LOT OF OTHER WEEDS OUT IN THE RURAL AREAS THAT ARE NOXIOUS. I HAVE OFTEN THOUGHT THAT MILO SHOULD HAVE BEEN A NOXIOUS WEED, AS BAD AS IT IS TO HARVEST AND HANDLE, BUT THAT'S A GROWING CROP, SO WE DON'T DO THAT. I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S THE SAME--THE SPECIES THAT WERE HERE BEFORE THE PRAIRIE DOGS HAVE BEEN HERE, SOMEHOW THE NOXIOUS WEED FLEW IN, WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP THEM OUT. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. WE HAVE, YOU KNOW, TWO YEARS AGO MY PRIORITY BILL WAS THE WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION ACT, AND AS YOU RECALL AT THE TIME, WE LEARNED THAT RED CEDARS, WHICH WERE BROUGHT IN HERE AND PLANTED HAVE BECOME, IN SOME RESPECTS, NOXIOUS WEED, AND THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT EXPENSE ASSOCIATED WITH ENFORCEMENT ON THOSE. BUT, I GUESS, SENATOR JOHNSON, I'VE GOT ONE OTHER QUESTION FOR YOU, IF YOU WOULD YIELD. [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: YES. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: SO WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT WAYS THAT WE COULD CONTINUE TO KEEP THIS LAW IN PLACE AND YET ACCOMMODATE SOME OF THESE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY THE PROPERTY OWNERS? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: NO, I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE CAME IN AND TESTIFIED A WAY TO DO THAT. THERE WAS SOME TESTIMONY ISSUED ON WAYS TO BLOCK THE VIEW OF THE PRAIRIE DOGS WITH THE BIG ROUND BALES AROUND YOUR FIELD OR STRAW BALES, I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S THE BEST ROUTE. THERE ARE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SOME OTHER WAYS BY PUTTING UP TOWERS IN ORDER TO HELP ON THE MOVEMENT OF THAT. THAT WAS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF OTHER WAYS TO CONTROL THE PRAIRIE DOGS ON YOUR OWN PROPERTY. SO THAT WAS ABOUT THE EXTENT OF IT. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: AND I HAVEN'T PULLED THE RECORD OF WHO TESTIFIED, BUT DO YOU REMEMBER AT ALL WHO WAS TESTIFYING? DID ANYONE COME AND SPEAK ON THE BILL FROM RURAL NEBRASKA? OR WAS IT ONLY NACO THAT CAME TO REPRESENT SUPPORT FOR THE BILL? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THOSE PROPONENTS: THE AUDUBON SOCIETY, THE FARMERS UNION, WILDLIFE, SIERRA CLUB; I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS-- HUTCHINSON ORGANIC RANCH, AND THE HUMANE SOCIETY, THOSE WERE THOSE PROPONENTS OF THE BILL. THOSE OPPONENTS WERE: NACO, SPORTSMEN'S FOUNDATION, AND NEBRASKA CATTLEMEN. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: SO WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO CAME IN TO TALK ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH IT. AND THAT'S WHAT I'VE TRIED BRING--THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: WELL, I WAS LISTING ASSOCIATIONS. JACK ANDERSEN WAS IN OPPOSING IT, THEN WE HAD THREE OTHER INDIVIDUALS THAT I DON'T KNOW THEM, BUT B-Y-O-R-T-H, A YOUNG LADY, AND ROBERT BERNT AND RACHEL SIMPSON WERE THE THREE INDIVIDUALS THAT CAME AND SPOKE AS A PROPONENT. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: AND ONE OF THE REASONS I BROUGHT THESE LETTERS TODAY WAS TO TRY TO JUST EMPHASIZE TO PEOPLE WHY THIS IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE AND WHY WE DO NEED TO HAVE SOME CONTROL. YOU KNOW, YEARS AGO IN NEBRASKA, WE HAD A LOT OF VARMINT CONTROL. PEOPLE WERE PAID A BOUNTY TO SHOOT COYOTES AND BADGERS AND THINGS LIKE THAT. WE'VE GOTTEN AWAY FROM THAT BECAUSE MAYBE WE DON'T NEED THAT ANYMORE, BUT SENATOR HARR KIND OF WAS UP IN ARMS ABOUT THE LETTER THAT I PRESENTED FROM SOMEBODY IN COLORADO. WELL, THIS IS A SHERIDAN

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

COUNTY LANDOWNER, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHO IS PUTTING OUT \$3,200 EVERY YEAR TO PAY FOR TREATMENT. THE GUY IS 70-SOME YEARS OLD. IF THE NEIGHBORS AREN'T TAKING CARE OF THE PROBLEM, YOU JUST CONSTANTLY HAVE A PROBLEM. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: TIME, SENATOR. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: WAS THAT ONE MINUTE? [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: TIME. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: TIME. THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS IS A PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUE; THIS IS NOT ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS. THIS IS ABOUT WHETHER A GOVERNMENT ENTITY CAN ENTER ONTO YOUR LAND WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION TO CONTROL A PEST THAT YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO CONTROL. WE DO THAT ALL THE TIME. YOU LOOK AT ZONING LAWS IN TOWN, YOU LOOK AT...I'VE LEARNED A LOT ON THE URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ABOUT HOAs, HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATIONS, YOU KNOW, THE THINGS THAT WHEN YOU BUY A PIECE OF PROPERTY ANYWHERE IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, THERE ARE CERTAIN RESPONSIBILITIES THAT COME ALONG WITH THAT. YOU NEED TO KEEP YOUR WEEDS DOWN FOR FIRE CONTROL. THIS IS NOTHING NEW ABOUT ONE GOVERNMENT ENTITY COMING ON TO OUR PRIVATE PROPERTY AND WANTING TO CONTROL WHAT WE DO. AS A FARMER, I'M LIKE SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, I HOLD MY PROPERTY RIGHTS VERY SACRED. I DO NOT LIKE THE GOVERNMENT COMING ONTO THE PROPERTY THAT I HAVE PURCHASED AND TELLING ME WHAT I CAN AND CANNOT DO. BUT I ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO STEP IN WHEN MY NEIGHBOR IS NOT CARING FOR HIS PROPERTY PROPERLY. HOW ABOUT THAT? IF YOU LIVE NEXT TO A FEEDLOT AND THEIR LAGOON RUNS OVER, THE GOVERNMENT STEPS IN AND PROVIDES REMEDIATION. IF YOU GET A BIG RAIN AND A BUNCH OF YOUR SOIL WASHES ACROSS YOUR PROPERTY, THE GOVERNMENT WILL STEP IN AND HELP RECTIFY THE SITUATION. THEY WILL HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR FIX THE PROBLEM ON HIS SIDE. SAME THING WITH WATER, IF THERE IS A WATERWAY AND THERE IS TOO MUCH WATER COMES ACROSS YOUR LAND, THE GOVERNMENT WILL STEP

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

IN TO THE PROCESS. SAME THING ON THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, WE HEARD A LOT OF BILLS THIS YEAR OR WE HEARD AT LEAST ONE DEALING WITH THAT ISSUE, WITH THE NRDs HAVING MORE AUTHORITY TO GO IN AND DO THINGS IF YOU ALLOW YOUR SOIL TO GO ACROSS YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY. SO THIS IS A PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHT, BUT IT'S NOT ANYTHING NEW THAT WE DON'T DO ALL THE TIME. IF YOU HAVE A HOME IN TOWN, THERE ARE CERTAIN LAWS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAKES YOU ABIDE BY. IN URBAN AFFAIRS, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT UPDATING THE BUILDING CODES. WE PASSED A LAW THAT SAID YOU HAD TO PUT A SMOKE DETECTOR...OR CARBON MONOXIDE PROTECTOR IN YOUR HOUSE. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT'S NOT COMING IN AND DOING THAT FOR YOU, BUT THE LAW IS THERE THAT INFRINGED UPON THE PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANTED THAT IN YOUR NEW HOME. THIS IS NOTHING NEW THAT WE'RE DOING TODAY. IT'S DEALING WITH A PRAIRIE DOG THAT IS A RODENT THAT CAN BE VERY DESTRUCTIVE IF YOUR NEIGHBOR DOESN'T CONTROL THEM AND THEY GET ON YOUR PROPERTY. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: WELL, THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'VE GOT TO TELL YOU, I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'VE NEVER SEEN A PRAIRIE DOG. I GUESS IT LOOKS LIKE A WEASEL. I GUESS IF IT POPPED OUT OF THE GROUND, I WOULD TAKE A SHOT AT IT, I KNOW THAT, BUT I, HOPEFULLY, I WOULDN'T BE SHOOTING AT SOMEONE'S CAT OR SOMETHING. BUT, SENATOR SCHILZ, WILL YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR SCHILZ, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES, I WILL. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTER: WELL, I LOOKED AT THE COMMITTEE...THANK YOU FOR YIELDING...I LOOKED AT THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT, AND YOU WERE PRESENT NOT VOTING; WHY IS THAT? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: WELL, AT THE TIME, I STILL HAD QUESTIONS ON WHETHER OR NOT I WANTED TO KICK THAT OUT TO THE FLOOR OR NOT, SO I ABSTAINED FROM VOTING. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR KINTNER: AS I UNDERSTAND, YOU'VE SEEN A WEASEL...OR A PRAIRIE DOG. [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YES, SENATOR KINTNER, AND I THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE BIT OFFENSIVE TO THE WEASEL, BUT ANYWAY. (LAUGH) [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY TASTE LIKE? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: NEITHER ONE, NO. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: OKAY, JUST CHECKING. HAVE YOU SEEN THE PROBLEMS THEY CAUSE? CAN YOU DESCRIBE TO ME WHAT YOU'VE SEEN. [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: WELL, I MEAN, WHERE A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN IS, OBVIOUSLY, YOU'VE GOT BURROWS, AND YOU'VE GOT AREAS AROUND THERE WHERE THEY BASICALLY TAKE THE GRASS DOWN TO ABOUT A HALF INCH TALL, AND ALL THE VEGETATION AROUND THERE. THEY LIKE TO BE ABLE TO SEE FOR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: CAN YOU SEE...IF YOU'RE RIDING A HORSE OR IF YOU'RE RIDING ON YOUR TRACTOR, CAN YOU SEE THE HOLES OUT OR DO THEY COME UP ON YOU AND SURPRISE YOU? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: WELL, IT DEPENDS ON...IT DEPENDS ON HOW FAST YOU'RE GOING ON THE HORSE, BUT YEAH, YOU CAN SEE THEM. BUT AT TIMES...AT TIMES...I MEAN THEY CAN BE RATHER NUMEROUS, AND IT'S HARD TO KEEP AN EYE ON EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE. SO THERE'S ISSUES THERE, YEAH. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS LAW BEEN UTILIZED? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: TO MY KNOWLEDGE, AND SOMEONE CAN CORRECT ME IF THIS ISN'T THE CASE, BUT I DON'T THINK SINCE THE LAW HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED THAT IT'S ACTUALLY BEEN USED IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, WHERE IT'S AT. I THINK IT'S ON THE BOOKS, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYBODY'S ACTUALLY USED IT YET. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR KINTNER: IS THERE A VALUE TO HAVING IT ON THE BOOKS AS A THREAT, THAT IT COULD BE USED? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: I GUESS THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT SIDE YOU'RE COMING FROM. I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT IT AS A THREAT, AND I THINK THAT WHEN PEOPLE STOOD UP AND TALKED ABOUT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUE--I DON'T WANT TO TAKE UP YOUR TIME, IF I NEED TO DO THIS SEPARATELY, THAT'S FINE. BUT IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE PROPERTY RIGHTS ISSUE, I THINK IT ALL COMES DOWN TO THE DUE PROCESS THAT GOES FROM WHEN YOU'RE REPORTED TO HAVING PRAIRIE DOGS ON YOUR LAND AND THEN YOU'RE TOLD TO CONTROL THEM, THE QUESTION IS: DO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE ANY RECOURSE? OR IS YOUR ONLY OPPORTUNITY THERE TO TAKE CARE OF THE PRAIRIE DOGS TO THE COUNTY'S SATISFACTION? AND, IN MY MIND, AS I LOOK AT THAT, THAT BECOMES AN ISSUE, BECAUSE WHAT HAPPENS IF THOSE PRAIRIE DOGS DID NOT COME FROM YOUR LAND, WHAT IF THEY CAME FROM SOMEPLACE ELSE, YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO PROVE THAT, NO RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THAT. YOU'RE JUST TOLD TO DO THIS, AND THAT'S THE DIRECTION YOU HAVE TO GO. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: I ALSO SEE, WHEN I LOOKED AT THE COMMITTEE STATEMENT, THE U.S. HUMANE SOCIETY TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE BILL, SIERRA CLUB TESTIFIED IN FAVOR OF THE BILL. THEY ARE NO CHAMPIONS OF PROPERTY RIGHTS. WHY DID THEY TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF THE BILL? [LB128]

SENATOR SCHILZ: YEAH, WELL, I CAN'T... [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: I WOULD GUESS...I WOULD GUESS WE ALL KNOW WHY THEY WOULD TESTIFY IN FAVOR OF THE BILL, AND YEAH, A LOT OF US KNOW THEIR STANCES HERE ON WHERE THEY'RE AT. WHAT I WOULD SAY IS THAT DON'T CONFUSE WHY SOME PEOPLE ARE FOR A BILL AS TO WHY OTHER PEOPLE MAY BE FOR IT AS WELL. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, SENATOR SCHILZ. ONCE AGAIN, I HAVE NOW SPENT FOUR MINUTES. I'M NO CLOSER TO FIGURING WHERE I AM ON THIS BILL THAN I WAS BEFORE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER AND SENATOR SCHILZ.
SENATOR FRIESEN, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. QUITE A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS ON THE CITY COUNCIL IN HENDERSON, WE HAD A HOMEOWNER IN THE AREA WHO COLLECTED JUNK, AND HE COLLECTED LOTS OF JUNK. AND EVENTUALLY RATS MOVED IN. THE NEIGHBORS STARTED TO COMPLAIN. THIS WENT ON PROBABLY TWO, THREE YEARS. AND IT GOT SO BAD THAT WE HAD NEIGHBORS WITH CHILDREN WHO DID NOT WANT TO LET THEIR KIDS PLAY OUTSIDE, THEY WERE AFRAID THEY WERE GOING TO GET BITTEN BY A RAT. EVENTUALLY THE CITY HAD TO ACTUALLY GO IN, CLEAN UP THE PROPERTY, AND IT COST SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS TO GO IN AND TAKE CARE OF THE PROBLEM, ERADICATE THE RATS, AND CLEAN UP THAT HOUSE. SO, SENATOR HARR, WOULD YOU YIELD TO A QUESTION? [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HARR, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: YES. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SO IF...I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE FOR SURE, BUT IF ONE OF YOUR NEIGHBORS DECIDED TO START NEGLECTING HIS PROPERTY AND THE WEEDS STARTED GROWING AND THE GRASS GOT TO BE ABOUT A FOOT TALL AND HE WAS BRINGING IN ODD PIECES OF JUNK, MACHINERY, AND PRETTY SOON THE RATS MOVED IN AND VISITED YOUR HOUSE ONCE IN A WHILE, WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT SOMEONE TO DO? [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: WELL, I WOULD AGREE WITH YOU, IT WOULD BE A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE AT THAT POINT. AND I WOULD HOPE, DUE TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, THAT I COULD GO TO MY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION AND ASK FOR ASSISTANCE. BUT THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT'S A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SO PRAIRIE DOGS, IF THEY WERE...COULD ALSO...I'VE HEARD THEM REFERRED TO AS PRAIRIE RATS... [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: I'VE BEEN REFERRED TO AS A RAT. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: ...IT'S A HEALTH ISSUE FOR LIVESTOCK, IT'S A HEALTH ISSUE FOR HORSES. YOU HAVE...THERE'S OTHER DANGERS PRESENTED BY THEM; THEY

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

COULD CARRY DISEASE, I DON'T KNOW, I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS, I DON'T HAVE ANY ON MY PROPERTY. BUT WE CAN LOOK AT IT FROM A LOT OF DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. I WILL ADMIT THAT THERE ARE THINGS THAT WERE WRONG WITH THIS BILL, BUT DO YOU THINK THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO COME IN AND DO THAT? [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: I THINK WHEREVER, WHENEVER WE ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO COME ONTO OUR PERSONAL PROPERTY AND DECIDE WHAT WE CAN AND CAN'T DO, WE NEED TO TREAD VERY LIGHTLY. AND I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE MORE THAN WHAT IF THEY DID THIS OR WHAT IF THEY DID THAT. I THINK IT NEEDS TO BE LAID OUT SPECIFICALLY. THE REASON FOR THIS LAW IS BECAUSE...AND MAYBE THAT NEEDS TO BE IN THE PREAMBLE--PRAIRIE DOGS DO...NOT CAN...DO BLANK, WHATEVER THAT IS. BUT I THINK THERE NEEDS TO BE AN OVERARCHING PUBLIC POLICY REASON TO ALLOW THE GOVERNMENT TO COME ON MY PROPERTY AND TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CAN'T DO. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: SO IF SOME OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE BILL WERE ADDRESSED, THEN YOU'RE STILL...YOU WOULD...WOULD YOU BE IN FAVOR OF HAVING SOME SORT OF METHOD FOR NEIGHBORS TO HAVE SOME REMEDY FOR THEIR PROBLEM? [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: I WOULD BE OPEN TO THAT, SOMETHING SHORT OF TREATING PRAIRIE DOGS SIMILAR TO A NOXIOUS WEED, SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE PROVEN IS NOT NATIVE TO THE AREA AND DOES CAUSE A NUISANCE. [LB128]

SENATOR FRIESEN: AND I AGREE, AN ORGANIC FARMER, SOMETHING, THERE NEEDS TO BE OTHER ALTERNATIVES USED IN THAT CASE. I WOULD ALSO AGREE WITH THAT. I'M IN FAVOR OF ANYONE WHO WANTS TO TRY THOSE TYPES OF CROPS. I THINK THERE DOES NEED TO BE A DISCUSSION ON THAT AND OTHER METHODS USED. SENATOR CHAMBERS HAD MENTIONED SOME OTHER METHODS. BUT THERE STILL SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF PROCESS IN PLACE, I BELIEVE, THAT ALLOWS A NEIGHBOR SOME REMEDIATION FROM THE DAMAGE THAT CAN BE CAUSED. THANK YOU, SENATOR HARR AND THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATORS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. AS WE HEARD TESTIMONY ON THIS IN THE AG COMMITTEE, SOME OF THE OTHER WAYS TO DISCOURAGE MIGRATION OF THE PRAIRIE DOG WERE MENTIONED. WE'VE HEARD ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT THEY DO, THEY DIG HOLES. WELL, THERE'S ANOTHER CERTAIN LITTLE CRITTER WHO COMES ALONG AND LIVES IN THAT HOLE. SO THEY'RE DOING SOMETHING THERE WITH THE ECOLOGY. WE'RE TOLD IF YOU PUT UP A STAND OR A TOWER, WHATEVER THEY WANT TO CALL IT, A PERCH, BASICALLY, THAT EAGLES AND/OR HAWKS CAN PERCH ON, THE PRAIRIE DOGS WILL MOVE AWAY FROM IT, BECAUSE THEY ARE THE FOOD SUPPLY FOR EAGLES AND HAWKS. WE DON'T HAVE TO GO ON OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY AND SPREAD POISON, WHICH IS THE PRIMARY WAY OF CONTROLLING THIS ANIMAL. WE CAN PUT UP THINGS THAT DO NOT INVADE ON YOUR NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY, AND THE PRAIRIE DOGS WILL MOVE AWAY FROM THAT FENCE LINE. THERE ARE A LOT OF WAYS TO DO IT WITHOUT HAVING THE GOVERNMENT COME IN AND TELL YOU WHAT YOU CAN DO, WHAT YOU MUST DO ON YOUR PROPERTY. COLLEAGUES, WE'VE PROBABLY SPENT ABOUT ENOUGH TIME ON THIS ONE TOO, BUT THAT, AGAIN, IS UP TO THE BODY. WE'VE DEBATED THIS THOROUGHLY TWO OR THREE TIMES AND IT'S TIME TO MOVE FORWARD AND PASS THIS BILL AGAIN. THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR BLOOMFIELD. SENATOR BURKE HARR, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF THE BODY. AND THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION, SENATOR FRIESEN. I WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU AFTER WE PASS LB128 TO FIND A WAY THAT MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOME MIDDLE GROUND, NO PUN INTENDED. YOU KNOW, THESE ANIMALS SERVE A REAL PURPOSE. THEY ARE, AS I'VE ALWAYS SAID, INDIGENOUS TO LAND. AND I MIGHT GET IN TROUBLE WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS FOR WHAT I'M ABOUT READY TO QUOTE, BECAUSE I'M QUOTING FROM NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION. SO...BUT IF YOU GO TO THE GAME AND PARKS AND LOOK UP WILDLIFE SPECIES GUIDE, PRAIRIE DOGS, IT GOES ON TO TALK ABOUT WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING TODAY. IT SAYS: PRAIRIE DOG IS A BURROWING MEMBER OF THE RODENTIA, THE LARGEST GROUP OF MAMMALS IN THE WORLD. SO, IN FACT, THEY ARE A RODENT. THAT IS NONCONTROVERSIAL. THAT'S PROVEN SCIENCE. BUT TO ANSWER SENATOR KINTNER'S QUESTION, ARE THEY VISIBLE? AND THE ANSWER IS MOST LIKELY THEY ARE VISIBLE, BECAUSE WHAT PRAIRIE DOGS DO IS THEY...WHEN THEY GET INTO A VILLAGE, THEY CHEW DOWN THE GRASS IN THAT AREA. AND THE REASON THEY DO THAT IS SO THAT THEY CAN SEE PREDATORS COMING. THAT'S

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

PART OF THE ARGUMENT AGAINST THEM IS BECAUSE THEY DO CHEW DOWN THAT AREA. NOW, THAT AREA WILL EVENTUALLY GROW BACK AND CREATE NEW AND BETTER ROOT SYSTEMS, AND NEW AND FRESH GRASS, WHICH IS EVEN BETTER THAT CATTLE DO SEEM TO LIKE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT GOES ON, THE GAME AND PARKS TALKS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE, AND IT SAYS, AND I'M GOING TO QUOTE DIRECTLY: IN MANY WAYS, A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN CAN BE CONSIDERED A BIOLOGICAL OASIS. MANY WILDLIFE SPECIES ASSOCIATE WITH PRAIRIE DOGS. SOME SPECIES FEED ON PRAIRIE DOGS, BUT OTHERS UTILIZE THE BURROW SYSTEMS OR THE UNIQUE HABITAT TO FULFILL THEIR NEEDS. VACAPT, V-A-C-A-P-T, I'M NOT SURE, BURROWS ARE USED BY COTTONTAIL RABBITS, SEVERAL SPECIES OF SMALL RODENTS AND BY BURROWING OWLS. MEADOWLARKS, GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS, AND OTHER BIRDS ARE FOUND IN GREATER NUMBERS IN PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS THAN IN THE SURROUNDING RANGELAND BECAUSE THEY ARE ATTRACTED TO OPEN SPACES WHERE SEEDS AND INSECTS ARE MORE ACCESSIBLE. THE PRAIRIE DOG AND LARGE GRAZING ANIMALS CAN BENEFIT FROM EACH OTHER'S PRESENCE. IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS TALLER VEGETATION, DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK KEEP VEGETATION CROP LOW WHICH ALLOWS THE PRAIRIE DOG TO OCCUR IN AREAS WHERE IT WOULDN'T OTHERWISE BE FOUND. THE PRAIRIE DOG FEEDING AND CLIPPING ACTIVITY STIMULATE NEW GROWTH THAT IS OF HIGHER QUALITY AND MORE DESIRABLE TO LIVESTOCK. CONSEQUENTLY, THE LOSS OF SOME RANGELAND TO PRAIRIE DOGS CAN EASILY BE OVERESTIMATED IF LIVESTOCK ARE ALSO USING THE AREA. AND NEW PARAGRAPH: SOME RECENT RESEARCH IS SHOWING PROMISE FOR NONLETHAL MEASURES TO CONTROL PRAIRIE DOG NUMBERS INCLUDING THE INSTALLATION OF BARRIER FENCES IN THE COLONIES AND FENCING TO EXCLUDE LIVESTOCK. IN OUR TESTIMONY, WE HAD A FARMER FROM SPALDING, NEBRASKA, COME IN AND TALK ABOUT HOW HE HAS A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN ON HIS PROPERTY. AND THE WAY HE STOPS IT FROM SPREADING IS HE HAS A HAWK STAND, BECAUSE PRAIRIE DOGS SPEND ABOUT A THIRD OF THEIR DAY IN THE SUN, BUT THEY'RE NOT DUMB ANIMALS. I TALK ABOUT WHEN I GO HUNTING THEM, YOU CAN SHOOT TWO OR THREE TIMES IN A VILLAGE, AND GUESS WHAT, THEY ALL GO DOWN UNDERNEATH AND THEY DON'T GO...AND THEY MOVE. WELL, SIMILARLY, OR IN THE SAME VEIN, YOU PUT A HAWK STAND NEAR A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN, THE HAWKS...THE PRAIRIE DOGS DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR THAT HAWK. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR HARR: THANK YOU. THEY DON'T WANT TO BE NEAR THAT HAWK. SO IT'S A WAY OF PUSHING THEM BACK FROM THE BOUNDARIES. IS IT AN EXACT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SCIENCE? NO. BUT IT'S A NATURAL WAY OF DOING THINGS. IT'S A WAY THAT WE CAN WORK WITHIN OUR SYSTEM INSTEAD OF BRINGING HARMFUL CHEMICALS ONTO SOMEONE'S PROPERTY. SENATOR FRIESEN HAD SOME GOOD POINTS: WE DO HAVE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO WHEN WE DO ALLOW GOVERNMENT TO COME ON OUR LAND, AND THAT'S OKAY. BUT WE BETTER HAVE AN OVERARCHING PUBLIC POLICY REASON TO DO THAT, AND WE BETTER HAVE IT LAID OUT WHAT THAT PURPOSE IS. IF IT'S JUST THAT WE THINK THEY MAY BE A NUISANCE OR THEY CAN CREATE HOLES, YOU KNOW, AND IT MAY HAVE SOMEONE STEP IN IT...I DON'T THINK THAT'S ENOUGH AND MAY NOT EVEN STAND UP TO A COURT. I DON'T KNOW; IT HASN'T BEEN CHALLENGED. BUT I THINK, AGAIN, WE NEED TO TREAD VERY LIGHTLY IN THIS AREA. THAT'S WHY I WOULD ASK FOR YOUR VOTE ON LB128. THANK YOU. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR KINTNER, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR KINTNER: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I'M GOING TO BE VERY, VERY BRIEF, HERE. BUT I JUST...I DO THINK SENATOR HARR HAS FOUND WIKIPEDIA, I'M CONVINCED OF THAT NOW. BUT I DO KNOW MORE ABOUT THESE RODENTS THAN I KNEW BEFORE. I JUST GOT WORD FROM KANSAS, THE STATE HOUSE, THEY JUST PASSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEALED CARRY, 85-39 IN THEIR HOUSE; EXPECTED TO PASS THE SENATE AS EARLY AS THIS WEEK, ON TO SENATOR (SIC) BROWNBACK TO BE SIGNED. I ANTICIPATE HE WOULD SIGN THEM. THAT MEANS TWO OF THE SIX STATES THAT BORDER NEBRASKA ARE GOING TO BE CONSTITUTIONAL CONCEAL CARRY STATES. I THINK THAT'S WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON. I LIKE TO SEE HOW IT GOES IN THOSE STATES. AND I THINK THAT...I ALWAYS WANT TO SEE WHAT OUR NEIGHBORING STATES ARE DOING. THERE ARE ALWAYS GOOD IDEAS TO BE HAD BY LOOKING AND WATCHING AND SEEING WHAT OTHER STATES ARE DOING. WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL YIELD THE REMAINDER OF MY TIME TO SENATOR HUGHES. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR HUGHES, YOU'VE BEEN YIELDED FOUR MINUTES. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN; THANK YOU, SENATOR KINTNER. JUST A COUPLE OF THINGS. I'D LIKE TO ASK SENATOR JOHNSON A QUESTION IF HE WOULD YIELD. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR JOHNSON, WILL YOU YIELD? [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR JOHNSON: YES, I WILL. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: SENATOR JOHNSON, YOUR DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW HAVE A PRAIRIE DOG PROBLEM, YOU INDICATED EARLIER, AND THEY'VE TAKEN MEASURES, YOUR DAUGHTER HAS GOTTEN TRAINED TO POISON PRAIRIE DOGS, DID I UNDERSTAND THAT CORRECTLY? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: THAT IS CORRECT. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: HAVE THEY ERADICATED THE PRAIRIE DOGS ON THEIR PROPERTY, DO YOU KNOW? [LB128]

SENATOR JOHNSON: WELL, I CAN BE A LITTLE...NOT BE COMICAL, BUT YOU PROBABLY SEE THEM MORE OFTEN THAN I DO BECAUSE YOU LIVE RIGHT DOWN THE ROAD FROM THEM, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT THEY ERADICATED THEM. BUT THIS IS A MANAGEMENT ACT, AND I WILL JUST SAY THEY'VE PROBABLY MANAGED IT TO THEIR SATISFACTION. BUT I HAVE NOT ASKED THEM THAT QUESTION RECENTLY. [LB128]

SENATOR HUGHES: THANK YOU, SENATOR JOHNSON. YES, INDEED, I DO LIVE JUST DOWN THE ROAD FROM SENATOR JOHNSON'S DAUGHTER AND HIS SON-IN-LAW. AND THE PASTURE THAT I DRIVE BY, I HAVE SEEN IT COMPLETELY OVERRUN WITH PRAIRIE DOGS, AND I HAVE SEEN IT ALMOST COMPLETELY VOID OF PRAIRIE DOGS, AFTER THEY'VE GONE IN AND POISONED. BUT YET THEY'RE ON THE RISE AGAIN NOW, YOU KNOW, THEY HAVE COME BACK. SO TO THINK THIS IS ERADICATION, I WOULD BE VERY SURPRISED IF WE COULD DO THAT. BUT THIS IS ABOUT PROPERTY RIGHTS, IT'S NOT ABOUT PRAIRIE DOGS. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD TALKED ABOUT PUTTING STANDS UP, AND SO DID SENATOR HARR. I DON'T WANT STANDS IN MY FIELDS THAT I'M FARMING. IF I HAVE PASTURE, THAT MAY WORK, BUT THAT DOESN'T WORK EVERYWHERE. YOU KNOW, I HAVE A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT NEEDS TO GO THROUGH THERE, SO I DON'T HAVE STANDS. I BELIEVE I HEARD THAT THE LAW THAT IS...HAS BEEN IN ONLY ONE COUNTY HAS NOT BEEN USED VERY MUCH. I THINK THIS LAW HAS PROVIDED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FOR SOME LANDOWNERS TO MAYBE CONTROL THEIR PRAIRIE DOGS MORE THAN THEY WOULD HAVE IF THIS LAW WERE NOT IN PLACE. I KNOW WE'RE GETTING TO THE END OF THE TIME, AND THIS IS THE LAST YOU'LL HEAR OF ME TODAY ON THIS ISSUE, BUT I WOULD CERTAINLY ENCOURAGE MY FELLOW SENATORS TO VOTE FOR THE BRACKET. THANK YOU. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR HUGHES. THOSE STILL WISHING TO SPEAK: SENATORS McCOY, BLOOMFIELD, AND DAVIS. SENATOR McCOY, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR McCOY: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS. AND I WOULD JOIN SENATOR HUGHES AND OTHERS IN SUPPORTING THIS BRACKET MOTION, NOT BECAUSE OF ANY PRIOR CONVERSATION OR ISSUE WITH SENATOR CHAMBERS. YOU MAY RECALL ANY OF YOU WHO WATCHED THE VOTE ON GENERAL FILE, I DIDN'T VOTE FOR LB128 ON GENERAL FILE. AND I DON'T INTEND ON VOTING FOR IT THIS TIME ON FINAL READING, IF IT GETS TO THAT POINT. AND THE REASONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH WHO THE INTRODUCER IS, IT HAS TO DO WITH THE ISSUE. I REPRESENT THE WESTERN 25 PERCENT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY TODAY, AND THAT'S ABOUT HALF SUBURBAN OMAHA AND HALF RURAL AG LANDS. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, THERE AREN'T ANY PRAIRIE DOGS, THAT I'M AWARE OF ANYWAY, IN MY DISTRICT NOW. HOWEVER, MY FAMILY, FOR FIVE GENERATIONS, HAS RANCHED JUST A FEW MILES FROM THE COLORADO/NEBRASKA BORDER NEAR WHERE SENATOR HUGHES'S DISTRICT STARTS. AND, AS SENATOR HUGHES KNOWS AND HAS ARTICULATED, THERE ARE A LOT OF PRAIRIE DOGS IN EASTERN COLORADO, NORTHEASTERN COLORADO, SOUTHWESTERN NEBRASKA, NORTHWEST KANSAS. IT'S A BIG ISSUE. AND I WILL TELL YOU AS ONE WHO LOVES THE LAND THAT I GREW UP ON, AND MY COUSIN STILL RUNS TODAY ON OUR FAMILY RANCH, WE TOOK PRAIRIE DOGS REAL SERIOUSLY. AND LET ME GIVE YOU ONE REASON WHY WE TOOK THEM REAL SERIOUSLY--THE COUNTRY WHERE I GREW UP, WHERE I GREW UP IS TOO ROUGH TO USE FOUR-WHEELERS. IT'S A LOT OF ROCKS, IT'S HILLY, RIVER BOTTOM. WE COULDN'T CHECK FENCE; WE COULDN'T MOVE CATTLE WITH FOUR WHEELERS; WE USED SADDLE HORSES. AND I WILL TELL YOU HAVING SEEN IT HAPPEN, NOTHING--WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SAY NOTHING--IT'S PRETTY TRAGIC WHEN YOU LOSE A VERY, VERY VALUABLE SADDLE HORSE, ROPING HORSE, COW HORSE TO STEPPING IN A PRAIRIE DOG HOLE AND A BROKEN LEG AND A HORSE HAS TO BE PUT DOWN. I'VE SEEN IT HAPPEN. IT'S AN AWFUL THING TO GO THROUGH ON A RANCH. IT'S VERY HARD TO TRAIN GOOD HORSES. AND YOU HATE TO SEE THEM END THEIR USEFUL LIVES THAT WAY. PRAIRIE DOGS ARE A REAL PROBLEM. WE GOT REAL SERIOUS ABOUT TAKING CARE OF THEM, AND WE ENCOURAGED OUR NEIGHBORS STRONGLY TO DO THE SAME. AND IT'S HARD, I THINK, TO UNDERSTAND UNLESS YOU'VE BEEN AROUND IT, AND THIS WOULD BE TO SENATOR BURKE HARR, WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, AND I KNOW HE UNDERSTANDS THIS ISSUE, TOO, ONE THING I DO WANT TO CLARIFY THAT YOU SAID, AND I'M NOT AN AGRONOMIST, BUT ANY OF US WHO HAVE BEEN OUT IN RANCH COUNTRY KNOW THIS; WHEN PRAIRIE DOGS EAT GRASS DOWN TO THE

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

DIRT, GRASS DOESN'T COME BACK, AT LEAST INITIALLY, WEEDS DO. SO WHEN GOOD GRASS FOR GRAZING CATTLE OR HORSES OR ANY OTHER FORM OF LIVESTOCK GETS EATEN DOWN TO THE GROUND BY PRAIRIE DOGS, IT'S NOT GOOD GRAMA GRASS OR BUFFALO GRASS THAT COMES BACK, IT'S WEEDS, PIG WEEDS, USUALLY, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE. SO IT'S A REAL PROBLEM, AS HAS BEEN ARTICULATED. AND I SUPPORT THIS BRACKET MOTION. WE WORKED HARD ON THIS LEGISLATION SOME NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, AND I THINK IT OUGHT TO STAND IN PLACE SO THAT OTHER COUNTIES, JUST BESIDES SIOUX COUNTY, CAN USE IT. WE'RE FEEDING THE WORLD HERE IN NEBRASKA. I THINK IT'S INCUMBENT UPON US TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR CATTLE INDUSTRY AND OUR AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY, OUR FARMING INDUSTRY ARE...THEY HAVE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF ANY ENCUMBRANCES POSSIBLE ON HOW THEY GO ABOUT DOING BUSINESS, BECAUSE IT BENEFITS US ALL. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR McCOY. SENATOR BLOOMFIELD, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED. [LB128]

SENATOR BLOOMFIELD: QUESTION. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THERE IS NO NEED FOR A QUESTION. WE ARE GOING TO RECOGNIZE SENATOR DAVIS TO CLOSE. YOU'RE THE LAST ONE IN THE QUEUE. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. JUST FOR EVERYONE'S INFORMATION, I'VE GOT A LITTLE GOOGLE EARTH DIAGRAM BROUGHT UP HERE THAT SHOWS A FIELD IN CHERRY COUNTY, WHICH IS WHERE I LIVE, WHICH DOESN'T HAVE A PLAN, BUT IT HAPPENS TO BE...HAS A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN THAT'S BEEN THERE A LONG TIME. I WOULD LOVE TO SHOW EVERYBODY THE PICTURE OF WHAT THAT LOOKS LIKE AND HOW PRAIRIE DOGS REALLY AFFECT PROPERTY VALUE. IF YOU GO BACK TO THE LETTERS, AND I'VE MADE REFERENCE TO THESE MANY, MANY TIMES, BUT ONE IS A LETTER THAT WAS SENT TO THE JACK ANDERSEN, THE SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER FROM DOUG ANDERSON, WHO IS A REAL ESTATE BROKER, AND HE TALKS ABOUT HOW PRAIRIE DOGS CAN AFFECT VALUE OF PROPERTY, AND HE SAYS: I HAVE REAL ESTATE LISTED ADJACENT TO PROPERTY HEAVILY INFESTED WITH PRAIRIE DOGS. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL THE VARMINTS, LET ALONE ELIMINATE THEM WITHOUT HELP FROM THE NEIGHBOR. EVERY TIME I HAVE SHOWN THE PROPERTY, A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE POTENTIAL BUYER HAS

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

BEEN HOW THEY WOULD GET RID OF THE PRAIRIE DOGS. THIS PROPERTY IS A HORSE PROPERTY. AND YOU HEARD WHAT SENATOR McCOY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THAT. ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT COMES WITH PRAIRIE DOGS ARE THEIR NATURAL PREDATOR, THE BADGER. HORSE OWNERS HAVE TO...HATE TO CONTEND WITH HOLES IN THE GROUND THAT A HORSE CAN DROP A LEG INTO. COLLEAGUES, I UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENT FOR PROPERTY...THAT HAS BEEN PUT FORWARD BY SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND SOME OF THE OTHER SENATORS HERE. BUT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A NUISANCE, AND WHEN A NUISANCE TAKES PLACE AND A NUISANCE IS NOT ADDRESSED BY THE APPROPRIATE PERSON, OFTENTIMES GOVERNMENT HAS TO STEP IN TO TAKE CARE OF THE NUISANCE. WE SEE IT IN CITIES WHEN YOU'VE GOT...REFERENCE...SENATOR FRIESEN MADE REFERENCES TO PEOPLE THAT ARE, ESSENTIAL, JUNK COLLECTORS, AND THE AMOUNT OF THINGS THAT BUILD UP THERE, AND FINALLY THE CITY SAYS--YOU KNOW, I'M SORRY, THIS IS A PUBLIC NUISANCE, YOU'VE GOT TO DEAL WITH THIS; IT'S A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE. WELL, MAYBE THIS ISN'T A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE, BUT THIS IS A NUISANCE ISSUE, NO DIFFERENT THAN WEEDS THAT GROW UP ON SOMEBODY'S...ON A NEIGHBOR'S PROPERTY, WHICH ARE...NEED TO BE REMOVED. AND IF THE LANDOWNER THEMSELF ISN'T GOING TO DO IT, IT BECOMES RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STATE TO TRY TO HELP WITH THAT. I THINK IF YOU LOOK AT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT TOGETHER IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, IT'S BEEN VERY REASONABLE IN THE WAY THEY'VE APPLIED IT. I DON'T THINK ANYONE HAS THE INTENTION OF TRYING TO ERADICATE THE PRAIRIE DOG. THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT. BUT THIS IS ABOUT NEIGHBORS WORKING WITH NEIGHBORS AND TRYING TO GET ALONG. AND IF THAT ISN'T TAKING PLACE, THEN IT'S TIME FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO HELP WITH THAT. JUST TO MAKE A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT SENATOR HARR HAD TO SAY AND INFORMATION HE GOT FROM THE GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION. YOU KNOW, IT IS A DIVERSE AREA. IT'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM NEIGHBORING GROUND, BECAUSE IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE A FLOOR SWEEP CLEAN WHEN A PRAIRIE DOG HAS BEEN IN THERE GRAZING ON IT. THE GRASS IS SO SHORT, AND IT'S...THEY DON'T REMOVE THE CACTUS, SO IN AREAS WHERE IT'S A HEAVILY CACTUS-INFECTED PROPERTY, YOU'LL SEE CACTUS GROWING THERE, BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE ANY GRASS. WHAT YOU SEE IS MOUNDS, MOUNDS OF OPEN SOIL, WHICH IS WHAT I CAN SHOW YOU ON MY COMPUTER, WHICH ARE WHERE THE ANIMALS BURROW INTO THE GROUND AND NOTHING ELSE. AND YOU'LL SEE THAT, ESSENTIALLY, ALL YEAR-ROUND. SO YEAH, YOU HAVE SOME DIVERSE ANIMALS THAT LIVE THERE, BUT YOU HAVE MADE A DESERT, ESSENTIALLY, OF THAT PARTICULAR PART OF THE GROUND. COLLEAGUES, I WOULD URGE YOU TO BRACKET THE BILL. I THINK IT'S IMPORTANT. IF THERE ARE SOLUTIONS THAT CAN BE PROPOSED, LET'S FIX IT, IF THAT'S THE CONCERN

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

THAT SENATOR BLOOMFIELD AND SENATOR JOHNSON HAVE. MAYBE THERE ARE THINGS THAT WE CAN DO TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM, BUT I DON'T WANT TO SEE A GOOD LAW GO AWAY SIMPLY BECAUSE SOMEBODY DOESN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PROBLEM IS... [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: ONE MINUTE. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: ...AND HOW THAT DEVELOPS. SO WITH THAT, I WILL YIELD THE REST OF MY TIME, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON THE MOTION TO BRACKET. THE QUESTION IS SHALL LB128 BE BRACKETED? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; ALL THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. 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. MEMBERS, WE ARE ON FINAL READING, SO A CALL IS NOT NECESSARY. MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK IN. MEMBERS, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR KINTNER, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR BAKER, PLEASE CHECK IN. SENATOR DAVIS, WOULD YOU LIKE A ROLL CALL VOTE? MR. CLERK, THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE IN REVERSE ORDER. THE QUESTION IS, SHALL LB128 BE BRACKETED? MR. CLERK, PLEASE CALL THE ROLL. [LB128]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 998-999.) 18 AYES, 26 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO BRACKET THE BILL. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION TO BRACKET IS NOT ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. SENATOR DAVIS, WOULD YOU PLEASE COME TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER'S DESK. [LB128]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, THE NEXT MOTION I HAVE WITH RESPECT TO LB128 IS A MOTION BY SENATOR DAVIS TO RECOMMIT LB128 TO THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: SENATOR DAVIS, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON YOUR MOTION. [LB128]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR DAVIS: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU'VE HEARD DISCUSSION THIS MORNING ABOUT THE PRAIRIE DOG BILL, AND I THINK WE'VE REALLY HASHED IT OUT AS MUCH AS WE POSSIBLY CAN, BUT WE DID HEAR THAT THERE WERE CONCERNS ABOUT THE BILL WITH REGARD TO PROPERTY RIGHTS AND HOW SOMEONE'S PROPERTY RIGHTS WERE AFFECTED BY THE BILL IF YOU DON'T WANT TO HAVE YOUR PRAIRIE DOGS KILLED. ONE SOLUTION TO THAT PROBLEM WOULD BE TO RECOMMIT THIS BILL TO THE COMMITTEE AND LET THE COMMITTEE HASH IT OUT AND FIGURE OUT A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. WE'VE HEARD REFERENCES FROM SENATOR JOHNSON AND SENATOR SCHILZ ABOUT WHAT WERE THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN THE COMMITTEE. AND IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO TAKE THAT UP AND HAVE THE COMMITTEE LOOK AT THE BILL MORE THOROUGHLY, FIND A SOLUTION THAT WORKS FOR THE LANDOWNERS, AND WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE THAT WANT TO PROTECT THE PRAIRIE DOGS. I DON'T WANT TO HOLD THE BODY UP HERE FOR ANY LENGTHY PERIOD OF TIME. I REALIZE THAT THERE ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES AHEAD, BUT THIS IS A VERY BIG DEAL TO MY CONSTITUENTS AND TO PEOPLE IN THE RURAL PART OF THE STATE WHO REALLY DO FEEL THAT WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM WITH PRAIRIE DOGS WHICH NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED. MY CONCERN WITH ELIMINATING THIS BILL IS THAT WE'RE PROBABLY NEVER GOING TO GET IT BACK AGAIN, BECAUSE THERE WILL BE PEOPLE THAT WILL FIGHT IT ON THE FLOOR. AND SO THEN IT JUST BECOMES THE CONSTANT, PERENNIAL PROBLEM THAT IS GOING TO PIT NEIGHBOR AGAINST NEIGHBOR, EXPENSE VERSUS EXPENSE. WE'VE GOT A PIECE OF LEGISLATION THAT'S IN PLACE, ONLY BEING USED IN ONE COUNTY RIGHT NOW. WE CAN RECOMMIT THIS BILL TO THE COMMITTEE AND TRY TO LET THEM WORK OUT SOME SOLUTIONS THAT WILL APPEASE SENATOR CHAMBERS AND HIS GROUPS AND WILL MAKE MY CONSTITUENTS HAPPY. THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO ME TO BE A BIG PROBLEM. I WOULD HOPE THE BODY WOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE THAT UP AND THINK HARD ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO DO THAT. AND, AGAIN, I WOULD LOVE TO SHOW YOU THE PICTURES OF THESE PRAIRIE DOGS AND WHAT KIND OF DAMAGE THEY CAN DO. YOU CAN GO ON THE WEB YOURSELF AND LOOK. BUT I CAN SHOW YOU A PARTICULAR PARCEL OF GROUND THAT REALLY IS HEAVILY INFESTED. I TALKED ABOUT THIS WHEN I WAS IN GENERAL FILE ABOUT MY OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THEM AND HOW DETERMINED THEY ARE TO SURVIVE, WHAT GOOD SURVIVORS THEY ARE, AND HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO ERADICATE THEM. SO WE HAD ELIMINATED A PRAIRIE DOG TOWN ON OUR PLACE, BUT IT TOOK US ABOUT FIVE YEARS TO DO THAT. AND NOW SINCE THEN, THAT WAS PROBABLY 15 YEARS AGO, I'VE GOT FIVE NEW ONES THAT HAVE DEVELOPED. THE ANIMALS ARE NOT BEING ERADICATED, THEY'RE NOT BEING...THEY'RE NOT ENDANGERED. AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

MIGHT HEAR FROM GAME AND PARKS, THERE ARE ALWAYS GOING TO BE PRAIRIE DOGS IN NEBRASKA, AND THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE PRAIRIE DOGS IN THE GREAT PLAINS BECAUSE THEY ARE NATIVE TO THIS REGION. BUT THEY NEED TO BE CONTROLLED, AND THEY NEED TO BE SUPERVISED. WE'VE GOT A REAL PROBLEM, FOLKS. SENATOR LOUDEN RECOGNIZED THAT, AND THE BODY, WHICH I RESPECT SO MUCH, MADE THAT BILL LAW AND IT'S NOW IN PLACE. SENATOR CHAMBERS DOESN'T LIKE IT, SOME OF HIS CONSTITUENTS DON'T LIKE IT, AND SOME OTHER PEOPLE DON'T LIKE IT, BUT IT'S GOOD LEGISLATION. WE NEED TO KEEP IT. LET'S COMMIT THIS BILL BACK TO THE AG COMMITTEE AND HAVE THEM EVALUATE IT, GIVE US AN OPINION. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE MOTION OF RECOMMITMENT TO COMMITTEE. SEEING NO MEMBERS WISHING TO SPEAK, SENATOR DAVIS, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON YOUR MOTION. [LB128]

SENATOR DAVIS: I THINK I HAVE, PROBABLY, NOTHING MORE TO SAY ON THE BILL. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, SENATOR DAVIS. MEMBERS, YOU'VE HEARD THE OPENING AND CLOSING TO THE RECOMMITMENT MOTION. THE QUESTION BEFORE THE BODY IS, SHALL LB128 BE RECOMMITTED TO THE AG COMMITTEE? ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; THOSE OPPOSED VOTE NAY. MR. CLERK, THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST FOR A ROLL CALL VOTE. PLEASE CALL THE ROLL. [LB128]

CLERK: (ROLL CALL VOTE TAKEN, LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 999-1000) 20 AYES, 18 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE MOTION TO RE-REFER TO COMMITTEE. I ANNOUNCED THE VOTE, SENATOR. SORRY. [LB128]

SENATOR COASH: THE MOTION TO RECOMMIT IS NOT ADOPTED. AS THE AGENDA INDICATES, WE WILL NOW MOVE TO THE 12:30 AGENDA ITEM, MR. CLERK. [LB128]

CLERK: MR. PRESIDENT, LR41 WAS A RESOLUTION ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED BY SENATOR CAMPBELL AND OTHER MEMBERS. IT'S A RESOLUTION THAT CALLS FOR THE LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE THE NEBRASKA BIOCONTAINMENT PATIENT CARE UNIT FOR ITS SERVICE TO OUR STATE, NATION, AND WORLD. THE RESOLUTION WAS REFERRED TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE FOR PURPOSES OF CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING. THAT

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

COMMITTEE REPORTS IT TO THE LEGISLATURE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION, MR. PRESIDENT. I HAVE NO AMENDMENTS AT THIS TIME. [LR41]

SENATOR COASH: THANK YOU, MR. CLERK. SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED TO OPEN ON LR41. [LR41]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT AND COLLEAGUES. I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL BECAUSE 48 OF US SIGNED THE RESOLUTION. SO SOME OF YOU MAY BE GOING--IF 48 PEOPLE SIGNED THIS, WHY IS THIS BACK ON THE AGENDA? A LITTLE LESSON HERE: IF A RESOLUTION COMES FORWARD AND HAS A SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE, IT'S NOT JUST EXPRESSING SYMPATHY OR CONGRATULATIONS. IF IT HAS A SUBSTANTIVE TOPIC, IT THEN HAS TO HAVE A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE. IF THE COMMITTEE THEN BRINGS THE RESOLUTION TO THE FLOOR, IT IS DEBATED ONCE AND ONCE ONLY, AND EITHER PASSED OR DEFEATED. AND SO THAT IS WHY THIS RESOLUTION IS BACK ON THE AGENDA. I HAD THE PAGES DISTRIBUTE FOR YOU THE TESTIMONY THAT CHANCELLOR GOLD GAVE TO THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE ON THE DAY WE HAD THE PUBLIC HEARING. AND I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE WORK OF THE BIOCONTAINMENT UNIT. I HAD ASKED THE SPEAKER SPECIFICALLY TO PUT IT ON THIS WEEK BECAUSE TOMORROW UNMC WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE COMING TO CELEBRATE AND RECOGNIZE THE WORK OF THE BIOCONTAINMENT UNIT DURING THE EBOLA EMERGENCY, WORLDWIDE EMERGENCY, ACTUALLY. SO I AM ASKING ONCE MORE FOR YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LR41, AS 48 OF US HAD ORIGINALLY DONE IN SIGNING THE RESOLUTION. AND WITH THAT, MR. PRESIDENT, CONCLUDES MY OPENING. [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST PRESIDING

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR NORDQUIST, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LR41]

SENATOR NORDQUIST: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I JUST WANTED TO SHOW MY SUPPORT FOR THIS RESOLUTION. BACK IN FEBRUARY, I WORKED WITH UNMC AND SENT A LETTER TO U.S. SECRETARY BURWELL ASKING FOR THEIR FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THIS. AND REALLY, THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THIS IS A NATIONAL TREASURE, THE WORK THAT UNMC HAS DONE. THEY RESPONDED INSTANTLY TO A GLOBAL CRISIS, AS NEBRASKANS GENERALLY WOULD DO. THEY WEREN'T AFRAID TO STEP FORWARD, BEING ONE OF THE FEW INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY THAT WAS READY TO FULFILL THIS NEED. AND

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

IT WENT BEYOND THAT. AFTER THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE, THEY BEGAN FIELDING CALLS AND E-MAILS AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM OTHER HOSPITALS AND INSTITUTIONS ABOUT TRAINING, ABOUT PROPER PROTOCOL, AND EVENTUALLY EVEN WORKED WITH APPLE AND DEVELOPED TRAINING PROTOCOLS AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS THAT WERE PUT ON iTunes AND WIDELY USED BY HEALTH INSTITUTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY. SO THE WORK THAT THEY'VE DONE HAS BEEN FABULOUS. NOW, THE NEXT STEP IS TO WORK WITH OUR CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION TO EXPAND THEIR ROLE IN THIS. OBVIOUSLY, THE EXPERTISE IS HERE, AND WITH SOME FEDERAL INVESTMENT, THAT EXPERTISE CAN BE SHARED MUCH MORE WIDELY AND HAVE GREAT IMPACT IN THE FUTURE. THANK YOU. [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR NORDQUIST. SENATOR LARSON, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LR41]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. I RISE TODAY NOT ON LR41, NOT ON CHARTER SCHOOLS, AS I HEAR A DEEP SIGH OF RELIEF. I RISE ON ANOTHER ISSUE IN TERMS OF RESOLUTIONS AND HOW WE LOOK AT RESOLUTIONS AND WHY WE HEAR THEM. LR41...LET ME FIRST READ THE RULE BOOK, AND I DO BELIEVE THAT LR41 SHOULD BE HEARD WITHOUT A PRIORITY, BUT THE PRIORITY THAT ON PAGE 27 OF OUR RULE BOOK, YOU'LL SEE WHEN A RESOLUTION IS CONSIDERED A BILL. RESOLUTIONS WHICH PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION, PROPOSE THE RATIFICATION OR REJECTION OF AMENDMENTS TO THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, OR MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE BILLS, I.E., REGARDING NEEDING A PRIORITY TO BE DISCUSSED ON THE FLOOR. SO I THEN GO TO WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY AND FIND WHAT EXACTLY THE WORD "MEMORIALIZED" MIGHT MEAN. AND IT IS TO DO OR CREATE SOMETHING THAT CAUSES PEOPLE TO REMEMBER, WITH SPECIFICS TO, AS THE RULE BOOK SAYS, AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. I THEN GO THROUGH A BILL THAT WE HEARD IN GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE THIS YEAR, LR35, IT'S SENATOR EBKE'S LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. AND WHAT IT DOES IS IT ASKS FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION, A CONVENTION OF THE STATES, ACTUALLY. IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS WILL COME OUT OF THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. IT DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT ANYTHING WILL ACTUALLY BE DONE AT THAT CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. THERE MAY OR MAY NOT BE AN AMENDMENT, BUT IT WILL BRING INDIVIDUALS FROM STATES TOGETHER AS THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ALLOWS, TO DISCUSS OUR CONSTITUTION, JUST DISCUSS. I THINK THE QUESTION COMES BACK AND LIES

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

HERE ON WHETHER OR NOT THAT THAT SHOULD REQUIRE A PRIORITY. BECAUSE LR35 DOES NOT, IN ITS SPECIFIC READING, IT DOES NOT PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION, IT DOES NOT PROPOSE THE RATIFICATION OR REJECTION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION, NOR DOES IT MEMORIALIZE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO ANY SPECIFIC AMENDMENT OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT ASKS FOR A CONVENTION OF THE STATES TO DISCUSS THE CONSTITUTION. IF WE READ OUR RULE BOOK, LR35 SHOULD NOT NEED A PRIORITY, YET IT HAS BEEN DEEMED AS IT DOES NEED A PRIORITY. THE RULE BOOK SAYS: MEMORIALIZE THE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. LR35 PROPOSES NO AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT DEALS WITH NO AMENDMENTS DIRECTLY TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION AND IT ASKS CONGRESS NOT TO TAKE ANY ACTION ON ANY SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT CALLS FOR A CONVENTION OF THE STATES. JUST BECAUSE SOME MAY DISAGREE WITH THE CONCEPT DOES NOT MEAN THAT IT SHOULDN'T BE TREATED LIKE EVERY OTHER LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION. NOW, I CAN, READING THROUGH THAT RULE, I UNDERSTAND THAT LR41 DOESN'T NEED A PRIORITY. LAST YEAR, WHEN WE URGED THE NEBRASKA DELEGATION TO... [LR41 LR35]

SENATOR KRIST: ONE MINUTE. [LR41]

SENATOR LARSON: ...PASS IMMIGRATION REFORM, IT DID NOT NEED A PRIORITY. AND MAYBE THAT'S JUST BECAUSE WE'RE JUST ASKING THE NEBRASKA DELEGATION TO DO IT. I WOULD SAY EVEN IF WE ASK THE WHOLE CONGRESS TO DO IT, IT WOULDN'T MATTER BECAUSE IT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY TOUCH ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION. WE ARE NOT ASKING DIRECTLY FOR THE CONGRESS TO GIVE US A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. MAYBE I'M BEING TOO NARROW IN MY READING OF THE RULE BOOK, BUT I DON'T THINK THE RULE BOOK IS WHAT WE WOULD CALL A LIVING DOCUMENT. IT IS THE RULE BOOK. IT IS NOT MEANT TO CHANGE AND TAKE THE EFFECT THAT WE WANT. IT IS THERE TO FOLLOW. AND IT APPEARS TO ME THAT WITH LR35 WE ARE NOT FOLLOWING IT. AND SHOULD THAT COME OUT OF COMMITTEE, I WOULD ANTICIPATE YOU WILL HEAR MORE. [LR41 LR35]

SENATOR KRIST: TIME, SENATOR. [LR41]

SENATOR LARSON: THANK YOU. [LR41]

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR LARSON. SENATOR RIEPE, YOU ARE RECOGNIZED. [LR41]

SENATOR RIEPE: MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU. I HAD A QUESTION FOR SENATOR CAMPBELL IF SHE WOULD YIELD, PLEASE. [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST: SENATOR CAMPBELL, WILL YOU YIELD? [LR41]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: CERTAINLY. [LR41]

SENATOR RIEPE: MY QUESTION IS IS ON THE HANDOUT THAT WE HAD, IT TALKS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER WOULD CREATE AN INDEPENDENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM. AND MY QUESTION THERE GETS TO BE AS: IS THERE A RELATED COST WITH THAT? IS THERE A MATTER OF...THERE ARE NUMEROUS OTHER ACCREDITATION AGENCIES, AND I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHY ONE UN MED CENTER WOULD UNILATERALLY, IF THEY ARE, GO FORWARD WITH THIS AND NOT COMBINE IT WITH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH AND EMORY UNIVERSITY, WHO ARE ALSO IN THIS BUSINESS, OR TIE IT IN WITH THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION OF HOSPITALS? THANK YOU. [LR41]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: IS IT OKAY TO PROCEED, MR. PRESIDENT? [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST: GO AHEAD. [LR41]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: OKAY. MY RESPONSE TO THAT WOULD BE THAT I THINK THAT UNMC, AS IT HAS BEEN VISITING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WITH THE CDC, HAS BEEN DOING TRAINING OF HOSPITALS TO BE IN A PREPAREDNESS SITUATION FOR VERY SERIOUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE. I DON'T...I THINK THIS IS MORE THAT HOSPITALS WOULD GO THROUGH THAT TRAINING, AND THEN THEY WOULD HAVE AN ACCREDITATION OR CERTIFICATION THAT THEY HAD DONE IT. I DON'T THINK IT'S LIKE A NATIONAL ACCREDITATION THAT WE WOULD THINK OF AS THE JOINT COMMISSION, BUT IT'S MORE A STATEMENT THAT STAFF HAVE BEEN TRAINED AND ARE READY TO GO IN A HOSPITAL. AND I WOULD NOT SEE ANY COST TO THE STATE FROM THAT PROGRAM. THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. YOU'RE WELCOME. [LR41]

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

Floor Debate
March 26, 2015

SENATOR KRIST: THANK YOU, SENATOR RIEPE AND SENATOR CAMPBELL. SEEING NO ONE ELSE IN THE QUEUE, SENATOR CAMPBELL, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED TO CLOSE ON LR41. [LR41]

SENATOR CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT. COLLEAGUES, I THINK IT'S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO RECOGNIZE WHAT A WONDERFUL RESOURCE WE HAVE IN UNMC AND THE BIOCONTAINMENT UNIT AND THE RECOGNITION OF NEBRASKANS WHO VOLUNTEERED TO SERVE IN THAT UNIT. IT WAS EXEMPLARY. SO I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GREEN VOTE ON LR41. THANK YOU. [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST: COLLEAGUES, YOU'VE HEARD THE CLOSING ON LR41. THE QUESTION IS THE ADVANCEMENT OF LR41. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR VOTE AYE; OPPOSED, NAY. HAVE ALL THOSE VOTED THAT WISH TO? PLEASE RECORD, MR. CLERK. [LR41]

CLERK: 31 AYES, 0 NAYS, MR. PRESIDENT, ON THE ADOPTION OF LR41. [LR41]

SENATOR KRIST: LR41 IS ADOPTED. MR. CLERK. [LR41]

CLERK: ITEMS, MR. PRESIDENT. YOUR COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY REPORTS LB72 AND LB598 TO GENERAL FILE WITH AMENDMENTS. SENATOR GROENE HAS A MOTION TO PRINT WITH RESPECT TO LB431; SENATOR DAVIS TO LB128; SENATOR KRIST TO LB245. NAME ADDS: SENATOR COASH WOULD LIKE TO ADD HIS NAME TO LB136, SENATOR LINDSTROM REMOVE HIS NAME FROM LB268, AND SENATOR GARRETT TO ADD HIS NAME TO LB546. (LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL PAGES 1000-1003.) [LB72 LB598 LB431 LB128 LB245 LB136 LB268 LB546]

MR. PRESIDENT, PRIORITY MOTION: SENATOR WILLIAMS WOULD MOVE TO ADJOURN THE BODY UNTIL MONDAY, MARCH 30, AT 10:00 A.M.

SENATOR KRIST: YOU HEARD THE MOTION. ALL THOSE IN FAVOR, AYE. OPPOSED, NAY. WE ARE ADJOURNED UNTIL MONDAY MORNING AT 10:00.