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Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

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FOLEY: Good morning. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the second day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Dr. Jane Florence of the St. Paul United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, Senator Wishart's district. Please rise.

DR. FLORENCE: (Prayer offered.)

FOLEY: Thank you, Dr. Florence. I call to order the second day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session, to order. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Do you have any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

FOLEY: Thank you, sir. Members, please come to order. Senator Crawford, you're recognized for a motion.

CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that the rules, as now in our possession, be adopted until such time as the permanent rules are adopted, pursuant to Rule 2, Section 1, provided that the temporary rules shall not continue after the twelfth legislative day, January 25, 2019.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Crawford. Members, you've heard the motion to adopt temporary rules. Those in favor say aye. Excuse me. I apologize. I did not see Senator Chambers with the light on. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature and for the new people, I am so inconspicuous, I am so easy to overlook. I always blend in with whatever the environment is of which I'm a part that I will sometimes not be noticed when I stand. And it extends to when I turn on my light, on occasion, but I don't want anybody to think that that is intentional. When you're such a modest person, people sometimes will treat you as though you're modest. Every motion made on this floor is debatable, with certain exceptions such as cloture, adjournment,

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

recess. I play by the rules; and if anybody finds me outside the rules, I can be called to order. And if I thought I was within the rules but I was not and somebody appropriately called me to order, I would not be offended. I will, as is my custom that I don't have to engage in very often, thank that person for improving my education. There is a song, which I shall not sing so relax, called "Home on the Range." It says, where never is heard...where seldom is heard a discouraging word. Well, we have arrived at "seldom" on the second day of the session, and I have some words I'm going to utter which will be not only discouraging to some people but perhaps even angering, perhaps even outraging. But that is life. There are different ways to obtain recognition on the floor. What I intend to embark upon this morning could be started by way of a point of personal privilege, but the amount of time I could consume on that point would be limited. I can speak at least three times on any other item. I'm going to have to take a leisurely stroll today to cover the ground that I'd like to cover. There was a song by Harry Belafonte. Some of the lyrics said: It was clear as mud but it covered "de" ground and the confusion made me brain go 'round. So I went to see a good friend of mine known to the world as Albert Einstein. Albert could not answer his question. So once again, clear as mud but it covered the ground. So I grabbed a boat and I went abroad, and in Baden Germany met Sigmund Freud. He said, son, from your sad face remove "de" grouch. Put "de" body upon the couch. I can see from your frustration a neurotic sublimation. Love and hate is psychosomatic. Your Rorschach shows you're a peripatetic. It all started with a broken sibling, in the words of the famous Rudyard Kipling. That's nonsensical but it's very enjoyable when you listen to it. What I'm going to say this morning--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --is going to be very clear, and it might engender some opposition because I intend to make it clear. There was a poem that people misnamed The Night Before Christmas, and it starts with words that I will give you when I'm recognized, because my first opportunity to speak has come to an end. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You are next in the queue. You may continue.

CHAMBERS: 'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the house not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there. By the way, people love St. Nicholas, don't they? He's known as Santa Claus, isn't he? But if you arrange the letters properly it comes out not Santa but Satan. Satan is the one who is being praised, unbeknownst to all of you, by the term "Santa." You didn't know that, did you? There are hidden meanings in a lot of things. Symbiology, is there such a word? Who knows and who even cares? But anyway: Mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap. It might seem like a long time, but I doubt that

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

you'll be napping. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was a matter. You may deem what I'm saying to be mere clatter. You may spring from your chair and leave the Chamber. You're free to do that. And if what I say makes your ears hurt, I would advise you to do that. But I'm going to take the time that I need to say what I'm going to say, and I'm saying it for the record. I am concerned about this Legislature as an institution. Senators get here by way of election or appointment. Some obtain a great amount of monetary support from the Governor; others may be appointed. Those senators are deemed by the Governor to be his property, ownership, a proprietary-type ownership. And when he forms his mouth to give a command, he doesn't have to give it. They jump. But if he manages to say jump, you all have heard the old cliché. You ask, how far? Well, in this case, these people belong to the Governor to such an extent that if he says jump, they jump first and say, is this far enough, boss? That's what we deal with. And I'm going to deal with reality, as I always do, in the way that I perceive it. And here's a principle of psychology. If a person perceives something as being real, it is real to that person in its consequences. What might it be that got me to talking in this manner and put me in the mood that I find myself in? The Governor did something of which I deeply disapprove, I find abhorrent, I find it disgusting, I find it totally, utterly unjustified. And I'm not one of those who will whisper behind my hand so nobody will hear me. I don't throw a rock and hide my hand. Anything I write, I sign my name to it. Anything I say,—

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --I make it clear that I'm saying what I mean; I mean what I am saying and the burden of this is on me. I may not get everything said that I want to say on this particular motion, but just for those of you who are new and those who haven't paid attention, whenever a vote is taken on something there can be a reconsideration. So I could stretch this motion out, but I don't need to because I suspect there will be other motions made this morning. What I'm going to talk about deals with my respect for and value of books. I could have brought a stack of pages this thick to hold them up as an example, and you know what that would be?

FOLEY: It's time, Senator. You may continue.

CHAMBERS: That would be my copy of Mein Kampf, My Struggle, written by Adolph Hitler! I do not hold to the notion that because somebody says something with which I disagree greatly that that person lacks intelligence, lacks an understanding of logic. Hitler cared about language, believe it or not. Hitler recognized the power of language, and he realized that language could embrace other methods of communication, one of which is called propaganda. He had a person who occupied a per-- a specific office for propaganda. He knew that there's a war going on for people's minds. And when somebody denigrates the concept of books, then they get on the fighting side of me and I have to make that clear on this floor. There are people who watch us,

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

and I want people to know that I separate myself from the cowards who let the Governor insult everybody in this state who reads, who has intelligence, who sees the value of language and reading; that I separate myself from him and I will make that clear. And let me tell something else to you all who are new and some of you who may have forgotten. Our sessions have a finite number of days. When a session comprises a finite number of days, time becomes critical for a person like me, who will often be on the short end of the stick. Time gives me leverage. The lack of time gives me leverage. And whoever controls time, controls everything. And I intend to exercise some control this session. The Governor has done underhanded things toward me. He's going to bring proposals to these bill-- this, this body. He's going to dictate to you all that certain things shall happen, and they might, but it's not going to be a stroll in the park. You're going to see that the fact that the sun has been circumnavigated by the Earth 81 times. Does it take the Earth a year to go around the sun? Or does it take the sun a year to go around the Earth? Or does that circumnavigation not take a year in either case? Think about it! But anyway, 81 years, if I've been honestly dealt with in terms of the year that I allegedly or purportedly was born, 81 years have passed since the day I came into the world and the Legislature was rendered a Unicameral, I believe. Well, usually when you reach my age, you're humped over. You have a lot of aches and pains, your mind wanders, and mine does too. Sometimes I'm talking about the "Bibble," and it wanders right over to something Aristotle said or Shakespeare--

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --or Christopher Marlowe. You said time?

FOLEY: One minute, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. All of this that I'm saying is by way of laying the groundwork for when I get into the meat of the subject that is on my mind this morning. Mr. President, in the interest of collegiality, and this will be the only instance this morning I'll be able to show it, I'm not going to take that full minute that I have remaining. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Members, the question before the body is the adoption of temporary rules. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. Temporary rules have been adopted. Speaker Scheer, you're recognized.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, if I could get your attention for a few moments, I wanted to run over a few things, as was my tradition last year. Although it's not Friday, I did want to get some information to you as quickly as possible. First, the calendar that was on the Web site earlier this fall is now not tentative; that is our calendar for the session. So that now has become the permanent calendar. If you are concerned about the

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

different dates, if we're going to utilize that, that is now the official calendar for the date. As far as next week, so everyone has an idea what we're doing next week, the 11 and the 14 and 16 we will convene at 10:00 rather than 9:00. It will be bill introduction. We will try to adjourn around 11:00 to 11:15 so that we can process the bills. On the 15, on Tuesday, we will convene at 9:00. We will have bill introduction that morning. The Governor's State of-- of the State Address will be at 10:00, and we will adjourn sometime around 11:30 for the Clerk's Office to be able to transact and process the bills that have been introduced. On the 17, which is a Thursday, again, Tuesday and Thursday we will convene at 9:00. We'll have bill introduction. The Chief Justice will give the Judiciary Address at 10:00 that morning, and, again, we'll try to adjourn somewhere around 11:30 on Thursday. On Friday we will convene at 9:00, mostly because it's a Friday and I want to try to get you out early. We will have bill introduction that day, and we will try to adjourn somewhere around 11:00 to get you the availability to have the rest of the afternoon off for your bills and whatever else. Then the 18, next Friday, is tentatively the last day to submit bills to the Revisor, our Bill Drafting Office, for your new bills, so keep that in mind if you are having some thoughts of some different bills. It-- as normal, we will probably shut that down as of Friday. So if you have a new bill you want to be written, Friday, most probably, will be the last day they will be able to facilitate getting that out and back to you. January 22 we will convene at 9:00. We'll have bill introduction. And hopefully, based on my conversation with Chairwoman Crawford on the Rules Committee, we will start the adoption of the rules discussion. We will adjourn by noon. And public hearings are tentatively scheduled for January 22 to start. The 23 we will convene at 9:00. We'll continue to have rules discussion. The 23 is, indeed, the last day of bill introduction, and we will adjourn at noon, trying to give everyone the last opportunity to be able to introduce whatever legislation would be on their mind. March 14 will be the deadline to submit a letter to my office for a Speaker priority bill. And by the way, for the newer senators, you don't have to write all this down. We will be providing it to you. So don't-- if you don't have shorthand, you're already behind. So please be aware that all this will be provided to you. On the 19 will be the deadline for designation of committee and the personal senator priority bills. March 20, the Speaker priority bills will be announced. March 28 is the date to complete public hearings for the session. And April 2 is when we will have scheduled the first day of all-day debate. April 29 through the June 6, which is the last day, I have blocked out on the Clerk's calendar evening and lunch events so that we have the opportunity to utilize our time in a more free basis without the concern of interrupting some other event at some other location. Again, for the newer senators, that does not mean that we work through the lunch all those days, nor does it mean that we will be going late night all those days. It just gives us the opportunity to do so. And you will be notified well in advance of any of those days that is we will be doing so. As we have done the last two years, during the rest of the session we will convene at 9:00 each morning and we'll proceed to that. I'll have further announcements, but again, for the newer senators, on Fridays I usually will-- I'm trying to be transparent-- let everyone know what will be scheduled for the following week so that you have an idea what bills might be coming to the floor. I'm not one that I believe in gotcha that will show up a bill at 6:00 at night and be first thing on the

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

agenda the next morning and have no time to respond to that, so, and-- and under normal circumstances. There may be something that is a very, very minute thing that may have to show up because of time restraints. But under normal circumstances, everyone will know when things are coming forward. Something that I am doing this year as well, and this is more of a comment to those that are watching TV, what I am providing today, that would be general information for those that would like it, rather than internal information, will be posted on the Speaker's Web site. If you would like to pull that up and see, if you've not written these down, they are available, because we had several calls last year that I was going through the announcements too fast. They didn't have time to write them down. So all of these will be posted on the Web site so that you no longer have to worry about writing them down if you're one of our more frequent followers and watchers on NET, which we appreciate. You will have the opportunity to pull those up at your own leisure. As always, you can contact myself or my staff with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are always available for that. And I thank you for your time and courtesy, and I will turn this back. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Crawford, you're recognized.

CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise with an announcement from the Rules Committee that we will be accepting new proposals for changes in many rules through the end of the business day Monday. So by 5:00 Monday, if you would get any proposals in writing to me so that we can consider those at our hearing, which will be next Wednesday. Thank you.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Crawford. Before proceeding to the introduction of new bills, I'll recognize the Clerk to dispense with any messages, reports, or announcements.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. I have, first of all, the preliminary report as compiled by the Committee on Committees; also, an announcement that Senator Morfeld was selected as Vice Chair of the Committee on Committees. A series of communications received since we sine died in April of last year, Mr. President. A series of appointment letters, first of all, from the Governor. Appointments to the Technical Advisory Committee for Statewide Assessment, to the Niobrara Council, to the Board of Emergency Medical Services, to the Rural Health Advisory Commission, to the Arts Council, Crime Victim's Reparations Committee, the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling, the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, the Crime Victim's Reparations Committee, the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, the Nebraska Ethanol Board, Public Employees Retirement Board, Climate Assessment Response Committee, Nebraska Ethanol Board, the Fire Marshal, the Nebraska Investment Council, the State Electrical Board, the Niobrara Council, the Nebraska Arts Council, the Rural Health Advisory Commission, the Nebraska Board of Parole, Director of the Department of-- of Department of Administrative Services. Those are all appointment letters, Mr. President. Those will be referred

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

to standing committee for purposes of conducting confirmation hearings. Also, Mr. President, some communications with respect to legislation passed the last session: LB807, a communication offered by Senator Brewer. Also, a communication received from the Missouri State Senate and House of Representatives; those will be on file or that communication will be on file. A series of reports received, Mr. President, over the interim period. Might remind the members those reports are available on the legislative Web site. All right, Mr. President, a series of Attorney General's Opinions received during the interim period: one to Senator Erdman, an Opinion to Senator Geist, Senator Stinner, Senator Bolz. Also, Mr. President, I have received interim study resolutions reports by the various legislative committees to whom interim studies were referred indicating the disposition of those studies. Also, Mr. President, a hearing notice from the Rules Committee offered by Senator Crawford with respect to the Rules Committee meeting next Wednesday, January 16, at 1:30 p.m. Mr. President, an announcement: With respect to the new members, the freshman class, you will be meeting in the Lounge at 11:00 for purposes of office sign-up; freshman class, Senate Lounge at 11:00 for purposes of selecting offices. Mr. President, I believe that's all that I have at this time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, as your bills are prepared and ready for submission, you can bring them forward to the Clerk's desk and he will read them into record as they become available to us. Mr. Clerk, whenever you are inclined to do so, you're welcome to read bills into the record.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. (Read LB1-LB53 by title for the first time.)

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Read LB54-LB98 by title for the first time.) Mr. President, that's all I have at this time.

FOLEY: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Williams, you're recognized for a motion.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President. I move that a series of committees be appointed to escort the various state and constitutional officers for the purpose of administering their oaths of office. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, we're now getting into those areas of motions that I mentioned earlier. I'm going to now get into the meat of what it is that I want to say, and the amount of time that I take to say it will depend on how long it takes me to feel that I'm getting my message across. Before I start, I want to discuss something that I

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

had handed out this morning, which all of you can read, but those who watch us on television and will not see what is handed out, I'm going to read from it. This is captioned "Ernie-gram number two." From time to time I acknowledge that I have adopted as my mantra the words of one whom I deem to be the greatest thinker/philosopher ever produced by America: Popeye the sailor man. Such being the case, it is appropriate to present evolution of a philosophical mantra, beginning with Aristotle, whose years on this earth are calculated as being from 384 B.C. to 322 B.C.--that's before Chambers--which would make him 62 years old when he croaked. To be-- this is what Aristotle said. "To be conscious that we are perceiving or thinking is to be conscious of our own existence." Then Rene Descartes, a Frenchman, 1596 to 1650, which was several centuries after Aristotle, "I think, therefore I am." I then took a quote from Exodus because of the construction of the language. Exodus 3, Verse 14, "And God said unto Moses, I am that I am." So this concept of being aware of yourself is what leads you to the argument that you, in fact, exist. There's a person Elzie, E-l-z-i-e, Crisler, C-r-i-s-l-e-r, Segar, S-e-g-a-r--I spell that name for the benefit of the Transcribers--1596 to 1680. That meant that this person would have been 44 when "croakery" came. Descartes was 54. Aristotle was 62. God, based on what people say, would have no age. Then we come to Ernie Chambers. Oh, what-- what Segar said in "Thimble Theater," a comic strip, "I am what I am and that's all that I am," Popeye speaking. Then Ernie Chambers, I am what I am and that's all I am, said Popeye. Here is the key: Because I cannot be all to all, I shall be me to me. Regardless what others say or do, to myself I shall always be true. Then from the American Heritage Dictionary is a definition of the word "amalgamate": to mix or merge so as to make a combination, blend, unite, combine. Then my comment again: With a tip of the hat to God, Aristotle, Descartes, and Popeye, I arrive at the final formulation which is mine: I think, therefore I am what I am and that's all that I am. And I'm demonstrating this morning a bit of what I am.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Before I go into what the Governor did, I want to talk about a book. Here's-- I pronounce it "Bibble"; other people say Bible. There was a senator once offended because I said "Bibble" instead of Bible. I say, you say "tomayto," [PHONETICALLY] I say "tomahto" [PHONETICALLY]; let's call the whole thing off. Then I said, what does b-i-b-l-i-c-a-l spell? How do you pronounce that? He said biblical. I said there you go--"Bibble." But anyway, here's what Mark Twain said. The Bible has noble poetry in it and some clever fables and some blood-drenched history and a wealth of obscenity and upwards of a thousand lies. That's Letter [SIC] from the Earth III. Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You may continue. You're next in the queue.

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, get that, the Bible has obscenity in it. The Bible is the origin of racism. The Bible justified slavery. "Slaves, obey your masters, for this is right and pleasing in the sight of God," and that was cited to black men and women when they were mercilessly beaten with whips: the Bible, your Bible, your Christian Bible, which I think is a compact with hell and agreement with the devil. I'm paraphrasing what was said about the U.S. Constitution by William Lloyd Garrison. These names won't mean anything to you, but they're for the record. The "Bible" also justified genocide. Kill every thing. Kill the people. Kill the animals. Spread salt so nothing will grow--a direct order from God in the "Bible." Wars were justified. I don't have to detail those. Torture was justified. When the Catholics were conducting their Inquisition, they would torture people. You know why they didn't torture mathematicians but would torture people over religious nonsense? Because math deals with facts. Religion deals with superstition, speculation, and, as Mark Twain would say, a thousand lies. Sexism or misogyny, the hatred of women, women were cast low. And again, this is for the record, not the Christians in here. When has the "Bible" ever characterized anything that is a natural biological function of a man as making that man unclean? Well, what is called, in polite company, that time of the month arrives, a woman, based, on the "Bible," is unclean. A "Bible" is going to call a creation of God, supposedly in God's image, unclean? Unclean. Unclean. People who had leprosy were deemed unclean and they had to cry out: Draw not nigh unto me for I am unclean. Human beings. And I know all the insulting terms they hang on people of my complexion to dehumanize us, to "thingify" us, to justify all the wrongful things done to us, such as a raping of black women by the so-called fathers of this country. Yeah, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry: slaveholders, slaveholders, rapists of black women and black girls. Thomas Jefferson was having sex and producing women on girls young enough, which if he did today, would be considered statutory rape, the father of your country. And I'm supposed to salute that flag and stand up for it? And I'm going to talk before the session is over about that so-called Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and how it changed down through the years. That hypocritical song about the land of the free and the home of the brave, it was a slave state then, and was written by a guy called Francis Scott Key. The battle that was being waged was the Battle of New Orleans, and New Orleans had more black people than white people. And because the white people, who called themselves Americans, were having their pants pressed, Andrew Jackson told the black men in New Orleans if you'll fight for the white people then you'll be granted the same amount of pay.

FOLEY: One minute.

CHAMBERS: George Washington at one point even promised black people freedom, and reneged on it, as has been the case with us throughout history. The constitution reneged. The constitution makes at least three concessions outright with slavery, and I'll give those as time goes on because you all don't have to read the constitution. I do, not that I believe it's great. It ain't much, but it's all that we as black people have got. We can try to embarrass these white

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

people by their own words into treating us the way they say that anybody born or naturalized in this country is entitled to be treated. Even under the constitution, although when talking about white men, Thomas Jefferson, and he stole language from things that had been written in England, that language was not brand new: All men are created equal. What he meant was--

FOLEY: Time, Senator. You may continue, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: What he meant was that white men in this country were equal to the white men in Britain. He was talking about political equality, that the ones in America would have the same rights, or should have, as the white people in Britain. These were British people in this country! When they declared their independence, they committed treason against their king! This country was born in treason. The Declaration of Independence is a series of lies, as is much in the "Bible" that Mark Twain had reference to. And I'm going to tell you all something else. You all are so silly. You Christians, you come up here and pray every morning. Adam was the first man. Let's go with the mythology, with that yarn. Adam was the first man. Did you know that he was also the first mother? Did you know that Adam was the first mother? That which brings forth another human being from its entrails is a mother. Adam gave birth to Eve. And the one who performed the first Cesarean section was God. God performed a Caesarean section on Adam to pull forth Eve, and the one who gave birth is a mother. Look up the definition of mother in the dictionary. It says a woman who gives birth to a child. Then forget what the "Bible" says. But you all say that the "Bible" is the word of God and that's where everything starts. So I'm going to take the "Bible." Adam was the first mother. You all didn't think about that, did you, because you don't have to think about it, because if you think about it you'll question it, and you're not supposed to question it, because if you do, they can't control you. Why do you think they say a woman can't get an abortion? Because the most personal thing that a woman experiences is whether she's going to carry a pregnancy to term. And if women can let men persuade them that they ought to be controlled in that area by what men want, then men know they've got control over women and they will always have it. The "Bible" casts women low. Every religion that has ever existed has cast women in an inferior position, every one of them: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and all the rest of them. Always the women are low. They are "thingafied." They are objectified. The other day, yesterday I heard about it. This woman had been comatose in a care facility for ten years and somebody impregnated her. All she was, was a sexual fire extinguisher for some rotten, low-down man. And this woman, comatose, was used to satisfy his sexual urges. Don't you all call a man an animal when he does certain things? Animals don't behave like human beings. It was either Oscar Wilde or Emmerson or one of those thinkers who said, human beings are the only ones who blush and they're the only animals that have a reason to blush. You all come here and you do these prayers and these sanctimonious, hypocritical, patriotic--

FOLEY: One minute.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

CHAMBERS: --routines, and they don't mean anything. They don't mean anything to you. You don't even know the origin of them because you are ignorant. And all this goes to what I'm going to say about the Governor. When you are against books because you disagree with the author, not what the author wrote, you are elevating ignorance. And he thinks by telling you all this is a bad man, that will keep you from reading the books. Jesus condemned rulers, judges. He condemned religious leaders. He called them of their father the devil, which means they were the spawn of Satan. He called them devils. But when the Muslims referred to white people as blue-eyed devils, they got upset. Muslims were echoing what Jesus said. And these blue-eyed devils--

FOLEY: That's time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --have raped--

FOLEY: That's time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

FOLEY: Members, the question before you is the motion to appoint the Escort Committees for the constitutional officers for the Inaugural event this afternoon. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. The motion is adopted. Mr. Clerk, do you have more bills to read? You may proceed.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. New bills. (Read LB99-LB130 by title for the first time.) In addition, Mr. President, new resolutions: LR1CA by Senator Wayne is a proposed constitutional amendment to provide that there shall be no slavery or involuntary servitude in the state; LR2 by Senator Blood is a provision that the Legislature, as described, shall call for a constitutional convention or shall be rescinded upon passage of this resolution. In addition, I have a communication from the Speaker that this resolution should be referred to the Reference Committee to be referred to an appropriate standing committee. New resolution LR3CA by Senator Erdman, a proposed constitutional amendment providing that the Legislature shall provide a law for a refundable credit against the income tax. Mr. President, that's all I have at this time.

FOLEY: Any additional items, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, there are. The Committee on Committees will meet in Room 2022 upon adjournment this afternoon. And a motion from Senator Albrecht to recess until 1:30 p.m.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

FOLEY: Members, you heard the motion to recess. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed say nay. We are in recess.

RECESS

SCHEER: Good afternoon. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the Inaugural proceedings. Will the members please check in. Roll call.

SCHEER: Mr. Clerk, will you please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, a few items if I may. Some new bills. (Read LB131-LB135 by title for the first time.) That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. And on behalf of my colleagues on the floor, I would like to welcome all of our guests this afternoon for this afternoon's activities, a lot of friends and family to see your loved ones and friends be sworn in as a constitutional officer. You should all be very proud of those individuals that will be before you. It is hard work and a lot of times unthankful from the public, and they owe us-- we owe them our gratitude for their abilities that they are presenting to the Nebraska state constituents for all the services they provide. And with that, we will start this afternoon's activities. Will the Escort Committee please-- yes? And because this is my first time in the Chair and I'm much more quickly activitywise, we're now going to stand at ease for about ten minutes because the other half is not ready. So please stand at ease. Colleagues, would you please return to your seats so that we can start the proceedings. Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the family of the Lieutenant Governor. Speaker recognizes the Sergeant at Arms.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Lieutenant-- the family of the Lieutenant Governor, Mike Foley.

SCHEER: Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the family of the Governor.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your Escort Committee now escorting the son of Governor Ricketts, Roscoe Ricketts.

SCHEER: We will now have the Presentation of the Colors from the Nebraska Army and Air National Guard. Would you please rise.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

SCHEER: Please be seated. Will the committee, Escort Committee, to escort the Board of Regents please retire to the back end of the Chamber.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Board of Education--Regents Elizabeth O'Connor, Rob Schafer, Barbara Weitz.

SCHEER: Please be seated. Will the Escort Committee to escort the State Board of Education please retire to the back of the Chamber.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting members of the State Board of Education: Patricia Timm, Maureen Nickels, Robin Stevens, Deborah Neary.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee please return to the rear of the Chambers to escort the Public Service Commission.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Public Service Commissioner Tim Schram.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee to escort the Nebraska State Attorney General please retire to the back of the Chamber.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Attorney General Doug Peterson.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee to escort the State Auditor of the state of Nebraska please retire to the back of the Chamber.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Auditor of Public Accounts Charlie Janssen.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

SCHEER: Please be seated. Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear to escort the State Treasurer.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting State Treasurer John Murante.

SCHEER: Please be seated. Will the Escort Committee to escort the Secretary of State of Nebraska please retire to the back of the Chamber.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Secretary of State Robert Evnen.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber as we stand and escort the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court into the Chamber, along with the Justices of the Supreme Court.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the great state of Nebraska, Mike Heavican, and members of the court.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the Lieutenant Governor of the great state of Nebraska.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting Lieutenant Governor and his wife, Susan.

SCHEER: Would you please be seated. Will the Escort Committee please retire to the rear of the Chamber to escort the Governor of the great state of Nebraska.

SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. President, your committee now escorting the Governor of the great state of Nebraska, Governor Pete Ricketts, and first lady Susanne Shore.

SCHEER: Please be seated. We will now proceed with the swearing-in ceremonies. At this time I'd like to recognize the Chief Justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court, Mike Heavican.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will begin the oath of office proceedings with the oath of office for the Board of Regents: Jim Pillen, Elizabeth O'Connor, Rob Schafer, and Barbara Weitz. Please come forward. I take it Mr. Pillen is not here today.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected members of the Board of Regents.) Thank you. Congratulations. And now the State Board of Education: Patricia Timm, Maureen Nickels, Robin R. Stevens, and Deborah Neary. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of Office administered to the newly elected members of the State Board of Education.) Thank you. Congratulations. Members of the Public Service Commission: Dan Watermeier and Tim Schram. And Mr. Watermeier is apparently not here today either. Mr. Schram, please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected member of the Public Service Commission.) Congratulations. Thank you. Justice Stephanie Stacy of the Nebraska Supreme Court. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Supreme Court Justice.) Thank you. Congratulations. Attorney General Doug Peterson. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Attorney General.) Thank you. Congratulations. State Auditor Charlie Janssen. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Auditor of Public Accounts.) Thank you. Congratulations. State Treasurer John Murante. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected State Treasurer.) Thank you. Congratulations. Secretary of State Bob Evnen. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Secretary of State.) Thank you very much. Congratulations. Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Lieutenant Governor.) Thank you. Congratulations.

SCHEER: Lieutenant Governor Foley, now that you have been duly inaugurated, one of your constitutional obligations is to serve as the President of this Legislature.

CHIEF JUSTICE HEAVICAN: Thank you, Mr. President. And now last, but not least, Governor Pete Ricketts. Please raise your right hand. (Oath of office administered to the newly elected Governor.) Thank you very much and congratulations.

FOLEY: At this time please join me in welcoming the Governor of the great state of Nebraska for his Inaugural Address, the Honorable Pete Ricketts.

GOVERNOR RICKETTS: Thank you, President Foley. Please, everybody sit down. President Foley, Speaker Scheer, Chief Heavican, members of the Unicameral, distinguished guests, including STRATCOM Commander General Hyten, friends, family, my lovely wife Susanne, fellow Nebraskans, happy new year and congratulations on the commencement of the First Session of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature. I want to especially congratulate our newly sworn-in elected officials and officers, and our new members of the Legislature. I have a deep admiration and respect for our state senators, the work you do here in the Chamber. You sacrifice much to serve the people in your communities. Thank you for your service. I also especially want to highlight and recognize the 13 new members of the Unicameral. Can we give them all a big round of applause, please? It is a deep honor for me to continue to serve as the 40th

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

Governor of the great state of Nebraska. And you will often hear me say that Nebraska is what America is supposed to be, that we have the best place in the world to live, right here in our state. And the reason that we have the best place in the world is because of our people. Nebraskans are involved in their communities, in their schools, in their churches. We're kind to one another. We treat each other with dignity and respect. And in the past I've talked about our heroes who exemplify these characteristics, people like Minnie Freeman, Chief Standing Bear, or Father Flanagan. But these characteristics that we value don't belong only to the heroes of the past. They're alive and well today in Nebraska. I think about Todd Brown, who found a wallet on an airplane, and not only returned it to the rightful owner in South Dakota but put a little extra spending money in there so the young man could celebrate the return of his wallet. Nebraskans do that. Or the three neighbors in Omaha who rushed to the scene of an accident and helped rescue the passengers from a burning vehicle at the risk of their own safety. Or Marine Captain Dustin Lukasiewicz, who lost his life in Nepal providing relief services and rescuing people after the terrible earthquakes there. We're a great people and a great people deserves great opportunity. And that's why we're all here. All the people in my office and my agencies, all the people who work here in this Chamber, all the people in judicial branch, we're all here to serve our fellow Nebraskans and make sure they have those great opportunities. The vision for my administration has been to grow Nebraska and help create those opportunities for our people, and I make my commitment here to you today that we will continue to focus on growing Nebraska for the next four years. Now, our strategy to grow Nebraska has four pillars. The first pillar is making sure we're connecting Nebraskans to great-paying jobs and that they've got the skills to be able to take those jobs. The second pillar is making sure we're cutting the regulatory red tape, taking down barriers for job creators, and providing our services at the speed of business. The third pillar is making sure that we're good stewards of the taxpayer dollars, that we're doing a good job of taking care of the people we're supposed to, but we're also being respectful to the people who are paying the bills, that we're constraining spending, providing tax relief, especially property tax relief. And the fourth pillar is that we promote our state. This is why I travel all around the country and around the world, from New York to Seattle, Japan to Europe telling people that we have got the best place in the world right here. And, folks, we've been recognized. We've been rewarded for that. We are recognized as being the number one most fiscally stable state in the country. We're number two for regulatory environment and cost of doing business. We have had the third highest wage growth in Nebraska of any state in the country since 2014. We've got the fourth highest work force participation rate. Forbes says we're the fifth best state overall for business. We've got the sixth lowest unemployment rate. And for two years in a row now we have led the nation in the most economic development projects per capita of any state in the country. And when those companies invest in our state, they're creating those job opportunities for our Nebraska families that allow our families to send their kids to school, go on that family vacation, and enjoy the good life here in our state. And, folks, that's what it's all about. I think about companies like Facebook and their billion-dollar investment in Papillion, creating about a thousand construction jobs now and 200 ongoing jobs when that facility is fully operational. Or

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

Prairie Catalytic in Columbus, they're creating a biorefinery with their \$50 million investment that will turn ethanol into ethyl acetate. Or Becton Dickinson last year announced a \$200 million investment in our state on top of the \$140 million they just did and creating 300 additional jobs at their facilities. Or Costco in Fremont, their new plant there will create 800 jobs in Fremont and the opportunity for 125 farmers to be able to put up poultry barns, to be able to diversify their revenue, build equity in their operation, and allow young people to come back to the family farm. Or right here in Lincoln, Kawasaki, a \$3.6 billion contract to build rail cars for the East Coast. Last year at the State of the State you may remember we talked about Eric Jones, a line worker at Kawasaki. Because Kawasaki also created their first-ever aerostructures division right here in Nebraska, he got the opportunity to go to that division, was made a supervisor, and now has an even better job to take care of his family. And, folks, that's what we're supposed to do-- help create those opportunities for people like Eric Jones, so he can take care of his family, enjoy the good life here in our state. It's not going to be easy, but we need to continue to grow Nebraska. Four years ago I borrowed the words from a great Nebraska stateswoman, Virginia Smith, who said, "There is no excellence without great labor." We're going to have to work hard and work together. We're going to have to roll up our sleeves, use a little bit of Nebraska grit. But I'm confident working together we can address the priorities of Nebraskans in the next weeks, months, and years. Next week I'll return with my budget that focuses on these priorities. We're going to have to continue to control spending and address key priorities like property tax relief. I'm asking for your help in enacting this vision to grow Nebraska. So once again, I want to say thank you to our state senators for your service and sacrifice. I want to say best wishes to our newly sworn-in officials. Remember this special day. And on behalf of Susanne and my family, God bless you all and God bless the great state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SCHEER: Please be seated. Thank you very much, Governor. Will the Escort Committee for the Governor please come forward to escort the Governor. Will the Escort Committee please come forward to escort the family of the Governor. Will the Escort Committee please come forward to escort the Lieutenant Governor from the Chamber. Will the Escort Committee please come forward to escort the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court of the great state of Nebraska. Will the Escort Committee for the Secretary of State please come forward and escort the Secretary of State. Will the Escort Committee please come forward to escort the State Treasurer to the-- from the Chamber. Will the Escort Committee for the State Auditor please come forward to escort the Auditor. Will the Escort Committee for the Attorney General please come forward to escort him from the Chamber. Will the Escort Committee for the Public Service Commission please come forward to escort him from the Chamber. Will the Escort Committee please come forward to escort my friends from the State Board of Education from the Chamber. And will the Escort Committee please come forward for our friends from the Board of Regents to escort them from the Chamber. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

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

Floor Debate
January 10, 2019

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, a reminder that the Committee on Committees will meet in Room 2022 upon adjustment. And a priority motion: Senator Lowe would move to adjourn until Friday, January 11, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. Any opposed say nay. We are adjourned.