

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate February 5, 2021

HILGERS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the twenty-second day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Kolterman. Please rise.

KOLTERMAN: Good morning, colleagues. I'm stepping in this morning for Senator McCollister. He called me and said that he wasn't going to be able to be here on time, and so he asked me to say the prayer. So bear in mind, if this doesn't come the way you want it to, you've got to blame him. Anyway, he wanted me to start out by recognizing that 87 years ago, on the fifth-- the fifth of February, 1934, Henry Louis Aaron was born into this world in Mobile, Alabama. "Hammerin'" Hank Aaron, as he'd come to be known, was a true American icon. He was a legend in his own right. This man was more than one of the greatest baseball players of all time. He received many honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the-- the Presidential Citizens Medal, the NAACP Spingarn Medal, and even the Japanese Order of the Rising Sun. Senator McCollister also wanted to recognize that this great man was lost two weeks ago today. So with that, colleagues, I ask you to join us in prayer. Dear Heavenly Spirit, we pray you give us the courage to approach each day with compassion and empathy towards our fellow Nebraskans. We pray that the work we do here may advance our state to be better than it was yesterday. We also pray for all those that are in pain and suffering and in fear. May your light shine down upon all of us. Amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Senator McDonnell, you're recognized for the Pledge. Thank you, Senator McDonnell. I call to order the twenty-second day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators please record your presence. Roll call.

HUGHES: Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

HUGHES: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. First, a notice of committee hearings from the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. Additionally, the Agriculture Committee reports on certain

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gubernatorial appointments to the Beginning Farmer Board. Agency reports electronically filed with the Legislature can be found on the Nebraska Legislature's website. Additionally, a list of lobbyists to be printed into the Journal. And Senator Kolterman introduces LR38. That will be laid over. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, Senator Linehan would like to recognize the doctor of the day, Dr. Doug Dunning from Omaha, who is serving as the family physician of the day. Dr. Dunning, if you would please rise to be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Speaker Hilgers.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. I wanted to do a brief announcement today regarding the schedule. First I do want to thank everyone for the great work over the last two weeks. Today will end the last of this-- of the two five-day weeks. I know these last two weeks have been par-- have been very difficult. I know there's been a lot of work from senators and staff. I think overall it's gone really well and I appreciate your patience and work over the last two weeks. This is the last five-day week of the year, so congratulations with that. Next weekend will start with a four-day weekend, so very excited for that well-earned break for everyone. I wanted to announce to the Chairs this week the upcoming-- the schedule for both the end of committee hearings and when floor debate will start. I wanted to provide that update to the body this morning. As I mentioned, last week, February 16, the morning of-- of that day--that's Tuesday morning-- we will have floor debate. The-- the next day that I've scheduled is March 2, which is a Tuesday, March 2. The morning of the 2nd, we will also have floor debate. Every-- every committee except for Judiciary will be done with hearings by March 4. That's a Thursday before a four-day weekend. I intend the following week to begin floor debate on March 9. March 9, 10, and 11, we will have floor debate in the morning. And then in the afternoons, those are available, if needed, for Exec-- I'm sorry, for committee makeup hearings, if we need some. I know we've had some committees that have quarantined. I anticipate that there's at least a decent likelihood that we'll have other committees that will have to cancel hearings. So we'll-- we-- we will reserve that afternoon for makeup committee hearings on the 9th, 10th, and 11th. On the 12th, that will be a check-in day for the body and the 12th will be an all-day hearing for Judiciary. So Judiciary will be completed the following week. The volume of bills, it was just simply impossible for them to be done by the 4th, so we gave them additional days, so they will be-- they will have hearings the afternoon of the 10th and 11th and all day on the 12th to ensure they have the time to complete their work. The

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following week, we anticipate that we will be in full-day floor debate. So we'll have a little bit of easing in. We'll have a couple days of morning floor debate, and then by the 15th we'll start in floor-- full-day floor debate. I anticipate at the moment, but I'll be able to confirm this probably next week, that on the 16th and-- and the 2nd, what we-- what we will be debating will be worksheet order bills, not priority bills and not consent calendar. We are going to have a consent calendar this year. I think I've indicated that to the body. Until we actually have more bills coming out of committee, it's a little bit difficult to say how that schedule will bear out. So that's the update for this morning. Again, I'm very grateful for all the work and patience over the last two weeks from everyone involved with the committee hearing process and the public, as well, if they're watching this morning. I think it's been a-- overall a successful two weeks, especially in light of the circumstances in which we are all working. So everyone have a wonderful, well-deserved weekend, and we'll see you next week. Thank you, Mr. President.

HUGHES: Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Senator Kolterman, for what purpose do you rise?

KOLTERMAN: Point of-- point of personal privilege, please.

HUGHES: You may proceed.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you. Colleagues, good morning again. I just thought I'd share with you. You know, I-- I indicated that Hank Aaron had celebrated-- would have celebrated his 80th-- 87th birthday today, had he lived. Well, we have a colleague in our midst that's celebrating a birthday today. Senator Matt Williams' birthday happens to be today, so I'd like to have us all wish him a happy birthday.

HILGERS: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Name adds: Senator Pahls and Senator Aguilar and Senator Clements, Slama. Walz, Dorn, Bostar, and Halloran all to LB4; Senator Blood to LB41, as well as LB242; Senator Sanders to LB250; Senator Slama to LB387; Senator Lathrop to LB3-- excuse me, LB486; and Senator Clements to LR3CA. Notice: The Health and Human Services Committee will have an Executive Session in Room 1510 following their afternoon hearing; HHS, Executive Session, Room 1510 after their afternoon hearing. Finally, Mr. President, a priority motion: Senator Flood would move to adjourn the body until Monday, February, 8, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

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HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.