

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Floor Debate February 11, 2021

**HUGHES:** Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the twenty-sixth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Aguilar. Would you please rise?

**AGUILAR:** Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of human government. We pray for our President, Governor, and legislators. Grant us all with humility and wisdom through righteousness, integrity, patience, and love as we lead and protect the people of our great state and nation. Teach us to honor them in ways that honor you. Teach us to live as free people, but never use our freedom as an excuse to do evil. Teach us to honor our rulers with respect, even when they are unjust. And thank you, Lord, for the time we have together as a legislative body. In Jesus' name, amen.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Senator Aguilar. I recognize Senator Slama for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**SLAMA:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Senator Slama. I call to order the twenty-sixth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

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

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** No corrections this morning.

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

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** There are, Mr. President. Your Committee on Business and Labor reports LB407 to General File. Agriculture reports LB90 to General File and LB91 to General File with committee amendments attached and LR5 reported to the full Legislature for further consideration. Series of notice of committee hearings from the Education Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, and the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. I have a report of registered lobbyists as required by statute for the current week, an announcement that various agency reports have been filed electronically and are available through the Legislature's Web site,

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and an announcement that the Government Committee will hold an Executive Session following the hearing session in Room 1507. That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, Senator Geist would like to recognize Dr. Douglas States of Lincoln, who is serving today as our family physician of the day. Dr. States, if you would please rise to be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Speaker Hilgers, you're recognized.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. We're at the end of the week and I wanted to give an announcement about what to expect not just next week, but here in the coming weeks. So in just a couple short weeks, it'll be here before we know it, the hearings will be over. And as I mentioned last week, by the 4th, we're going to start to be in-- in after the 4th, we're going to be in at least morning floor debate and then full-day floor debate the week after that. So I wanted to give you a sense of the deadlines that are coming up for priority bills. So on March 16-- I'll work backwards. March 16 is the day, is the deadline in the Rules for me to announce Speaker priority bills. For those new members who are here, Speaker gets 25 priority bills that I can designate. The deadline for requests, and we'll be sending out a memo that outlines exactly all these details, but the deadline for requests for Speaker priorities will be March 10-- March 10 and I will announce them March 16. March 11, the day after those-- the deadline to submit a request to me is the deadline for committee and Speak-- or senator priority bills, so March 11. So March 10 is the deadline to get a request to me. The next day is the deadline for-- for your own and your committee priority bills. We will begin debate next week, as you know, on the 16th, Tuesday morning, when we come back. And we're going to start on Worksheet order bills. So Worksheet order bills, as all the members who have been here in the past know, are just the order in which bills come out of committee. For those new members just to give you a sense, those are not things traditionally that the Speaker has had discretion or has exercised any discretion in ordering. So the order of those bills is going to come out next Tuesday in the way in which they came out of committee. So I'll tell you first up, it's going to be the first part of the day is going to be Banking day. Senator Williams got a number of bills out. We're going to have bills from Urban Affairs, from the Government Committee, and I think Natural Resources will be on the agenda. If you have any questions about things that might-- whether they're on the agenda or not, of course, just reach out to me or Laurie and my team. The 2nd-- March 2, I'll almost certainly will also do work-- Worksheet order. I'll tell you, just to give you some perspective, given the

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days that we have in session, we likely will not have that many Worksheet order bill-- General File days for debate. I'm just-- I want to-- I want to socialize that for the group now so you know, be thinking consent, be thinking priority bills, get your-- get any other bill out if you can. But I don't know, I can't guarantee that we're going to get through lots of Worksheet order bills. It's just going to depend on how debate goes during that time. So I just wanted to let you-- let you know that now. By the end of the month, hopefully sooner, hopefully as early as mid-next week, I'll have some content calendar guidelines as well. I have told you before we will have consent calendar this year. It's going to look very similar to what we've had in the past with maybe a couple slight tweaks. So we're waiting to have enough bills come out of committee so we can get a sense of what's there and what may be consent worthy. And then after that, we'll send out some guidelines next week. That's all I have today. I appreciate everyone's really amazing work the last couple of weeks on committee hearings. I know it's been a grind. Your staffs have been amazing. The senators have been amazing. Everyone's been working together. This is a great break for us. Enjoy the four-day weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone for some floor debate Tuesday morning. Thank you, Mr. President.

**HUGHES:** Thank you, Speaker Hilgers. Mr. Clerk, we'll now proceed with the first item on the agenda.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, the first item this morning is a report from the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee on the appointment of Kelly Lammers as director of the Department of Banking and Finance.

**HUGHES:** Senator Williams, you're recognized.

**WILLIAMS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Good morning, colleagues. Today, I bring forward for legislative confirmation, the Governor's appointment of Kelly Lammers as the director of the Department of Banking and Finance. Kelly was appointed on September 8, 2020, but his service at the department goes back much, much further. For the past 37 years, he has worked across Nebraska at all examiner levels of the Department of Banking and Finance. He has had the opportunity to work with bankers, credit unions, trust companies, and numerous other financial service providers observing firsthand the details of lending, exchange, and the act of running a financial institution. Kelly is clearly a lifelong student of banking and finance. Mr. Lammers is a fourth-generation Nebraskan from Sherman County, growing up on a farm outside of Hazard, Nebraska. While at Ravenna High School, which is in my legislative district, Kelly was a student intern at the Ravenna

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Bank and while at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, he worked at First National, Lincoln. After college, Kelly worked in the private sector and then joined the Department of Banking and Finance in 1984. He started as a field examiner for the department in the Kearney district. While he was there, he examined our bank in Gothenburg on numerous occasions. In the 1990s, he transferred to Lincoln as a review examiner. For the past five years, he has served as the deputy director of the department's financial institution division. Kelley also has an MBA from UNL and is an alum of the Colorado Graduate School of Banking. He holds the highest examiner designation, a certified examination manager from the Conference of State Bank Supervisors. He is chair-elect of the Board of Trustees of the CSBS Education Foundation. Kelley brings a wealth of education and years of experience to the position of director of the Department of Banking and Finance. The Banking Committee met and advanced his nomination favorably on an 8-0 vote and I personally have known Kelly for almost all of his 37 years with the department and I highly personally recommend his nomination. On behalf of the committee, I would urge the Legislature to confirm the Governor's nomination of Kelly Lammers as our director of Banking and Finance. Thank you, Mr. President.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Senator Williams, for opening. Debate is open on the confirmation report from the Banking Committee. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Williams, you're recognized to close. Senator Williams waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation reports of the Banking Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 34 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report, Mr. President.

**HILGERS:** The report is adopted. Next item.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, next report is from the Agriculture Committee for John Walvoord to the Beginning Farmer Board.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Halloran, you're recognized to open on the committee report.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Agriculture Committee recommends approval of John Walvoord to the Beginning Farmer Board. The Beginning Farmer Tax Credit Act was created in 1999. This act provides a refundable income tax credit to agricultural owners when renting agricultural assets to a beginning farmer. The act also provides a temporary personal property tax credit to qualifying beginning

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farmers. Beginning Farmer Board is appointed by the Governor for four-year terms to guide the program, certify eligibility for tax credits, and advise the Governor and Legislature regarding policies to promote opportunities for beginning farmers. John Walvoord is appointed to fill the seat on the board representing producers in the 2nd Congressional District. Mr. Walvoord is a third-generation member of a family farm operation located in western Douglas County. He graduated from Waterloo High School in 1985 and obtained an associate degree in general agriculture at UNL in 1987. In addition to his farming operation, he has served nine years on the Douglas-Sarpy County Committee for the Farm Service Agency of the USDA. He has also served as a past school board member. Mr. Walvoord is married with four children, three who are pursuing college degrees, and his youngest, who is a senior in high school. Mr. Walvoord appeared before the Agriculture Committee on February 2 and responded forthrightly to the committee questions. The vote to advance the recommendation of approval was unanimous, 8-0. I would move adoption to the committee report.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Senator Halloran. Debate is now open on the confirmation report offered by the Agriculture Committee. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Halloran, you're recognized to close. Senator Halloran waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report offered by the Agriculture Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 37 days, 0 nays on the adoption of the report, Mr. President.

**HILGERS:** The report is adopted. Next item.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, the Education Committee would report favorably on Molly O'Holleran to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Walz, as Chair of the Education Committee, you're recognized to open on the report.

**WALZ:** Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. This appointment is to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, which was established in 1991 by a constitutional amendment. The purposes of the commission is to-- to develop an ongoing, comprehensive statewide plan for the operation of an economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of postsecondary education. This is an 11-member commission and appointed

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members serve a term of six years. Molly O'Holleran from North Platte is being appointed as the 6th District representative on the commission. She currently serves on the board of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation, along with several local boards and genealogical societies. As a former teacher herself, she has advocated for education on a number of levels, from serving on the North Platte Public School Board to the Nebraska State School Board, as well as the chair of governmental affairs committee for the National Association of State Boards of Education. The Education Committee advanced her nomination unanimously. Thank you for your time and I would ask that you support the confirmation of Molly O'Holleran. Thank you.

**HILGERS:** Thank you, Senator Walz. Debate is now open on the report. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Walz, you're recognized to close. Senator Walz waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report offered by the Education Committee. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** 33 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report, Mr. President.

**HILGERS:** The report is adopted. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR33, LR35, LR36 and LR37. Mr. Clerk for items.

**ASSISTANT CLERK:** Mr. President, name adds: Senator Groene would add his name to LB364; Senator McDonnell to LB537; Senator Groene to LB675. And finally, Mr. President, priority motion. Senator McKinney would move to adjourn until Tuesday, February 15 [SIC], at 9:00 a.m.

**HILGERS:** Colleagues, you heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. We are adjourned.