

March 20, 1974

favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. Motion is to withdraw LB880. Have you all voted? I'll wait for you, Senator Kennedy. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very good. Say goodbye to it there, Senator Kelly, there it goes. The bill's withdrawn.

CLERK: Nothing further, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very good. The...no other motions on the desk. Move to the consideration then of bills on General File. Wonder if Speaker Proud is in the....excuse me, Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, I talked to Vince and I talked to Denny and I think I'm in line to take up that reconsideration before General File.

PRESIDENT: Okay, go ahead, sir.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'd like to do it now.

PRESIDENT: That is in order and the Chair will apologize for the oversight, Senator Barnett. Thank you for being alert.

SENATOR BARNETT: That's all right. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. If I can have the attention of the Legislature on what I consider to be one of the most important issues that's going to come before this Body. This session. I'd like to visit with them. And this is for the reconsideration of attempting to override the veto of the Governor on the Neihardt Center. I have not taken up a lot of time on this floor this year and I hope I don't have to do it now explaining what has happened. I hope we've made it clear that there are many people in the State of Nebraska at this time that are concerned that the Legislature might have made a mistake by not overriding on our first attempt. In the message that was given you by the Governor, it stated that we could wait until next year. I wish to emphasize to this Body at this time, there will be no next year. The daughters of John Neihardt, who live in Missouri, have told many people in this Legislature and have forwarded word that Missouri will be willing to take the Neihardt collections and make the museum of the historical center down there if Nebraska doesn't want it. I also understand now that Colorado is bidding for it. I think that what we have failed to see is that by honoring Dr. Neihardt, we honor one of the great pioneers who helped build the State of Nebraska regardless of how some people may feel. And I'm sure there are some people that don't agree with this. He's recognized worldwide and I think that it is a mistake that we do not reconsider the override because of the monetary value of which there is surplus enough to take care of it at this time. I think that the faithful friends that have followed Neihardt over the years and have made this little man, if you'll remember the little white haired man that barely got recognition as he spoke to us on the floor of the Legislature, I probably should say the little-big man. We, for some reason or other, now have forgot about him. He's past. He's gone on to his rewards which he did not fear. And now we somehow want to put him on the shelf and forget it. I think it was a very bad mistake.