

March 20, 1979

LR 29

Kahle, that your evaluation of the situation in terms of future legal positions that Mr. Soukup might take is wrong. I don't think he has any. I will have to agree with Senator DeCamp and again with former Senator Luedtke. This is the only process that this man has. If you wish to shut that door that is your prerogative but I think the Legislature would be negligent to do so.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY. Mr. President, members of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature, I rise to support LR 29 and on the basis that this is a big question. If it were not such a big question I am sure the Claims Committee, Business and Labor Committee, could handle this right straight on through their committee into the Legislature and make whatever payments that they would recommend and the Legislature would recommend. As Senator DeCamp rightfully points out, that there is damage here. Is it a dollar's worth of damage or a million dollars worth of damage and how many are there? This question has been researched by voluntary help. There is no money involved whatsoever for legal counsel, for investigators. It is the system working at its very best. Jim Livingston took this case on a voluntary basis, got a housewife to be his researcher, got a hold of the institutions and talked to them and they provided, usually quite cooperatively, the information needed but there are gaps that you can drive a truck through in this testimony. When the committee is formed and the subpoena power is available then there will be some attorneys available and resources available to where this could really be researched and then the Labor Committee will be in a position to recommend to this Legislature what they should do in this instance and what they should do in all future incidents because they will arise. It is not whether they will arise. It is when they will arise and will this Legislature be prepared to handle the cases as it comes before the Claims Committee. This resolution is a very important step in justice for citizens of this state and I strongly support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Are we ready to close?

SPEAKER MARVEL: We've got one more.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I will wait until they are done.