

May 23, 1979

LB 262

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion on the desk.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Read the motion.

CLERK: Senator Venditte moves to return LB 262 to Select File for a specific amendment, that amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the Legislature, I will be very brief and I feel I have some comments and some things here that I think to be appropriate for the record and for your information as well and I, first of all, want to address myself to the memo that was sent to the body yesterday by Senator Chambers relative to a hoax on my part and apparently an attempt to deceive and trick the public. I, first of all, want to say, you talk about a hoax and a deliberate attempt to trick and deceive the public. I want you all to know that Senator Chambers is doing just that. If LB 262 passes, here is what happens. It is saying that the Legislature is telling a judge that he has to say thirty years and the thirty year mandatory jail sentence is a lie and a falsehood because the Parole Board still has the right to commute a sentence. Yes, we have heard that before. So, thirty years is only a recommendation, ladies and gentlemen, and not a mandate. The only way thirty years will mean thirty years is if the Nebraska constitution is amended to curb the power of the Parole Board. Now, what does good time mean to someone sentenced to thirty years, and I think this is the substance of what I am trying to say here this morning. Number one, it means that good behavior is equal to a total of one hundred and fifteen months. Meritorious behavior, sixty months, total good time, fourteen years and seven months. What then is the actual time served? The actual time served then would be fifteen years and five months. Where is the thirty years that we are promising the people of this state? Let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, we are deceiving the public here this morning. This is our last day. This is the last hurrah. Thrice this effort has been made and obviously it has failed every time but I will do everything I can here this morning to see that this information is brought to the body and hopefully an intelligent decision can be made here this morning by you. I look around the room and the first thing I see is the number one on the board and I guess that reminds me of the total number of votes that this particular bill has to spare. Hopefully there will be some slippage