

March 27, 1981

LB 478

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR NICHOL: The amendment is adopted. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body, LB 478 would allow persons who have permanently lost the use or control of both arms as a result of neuromuscular or neurological disease to be included in the homestead exemption for disabled persons. The amount of the exemption is the first \$35,000 of the actual value of any homestead and the applications for the exemption must include the sworn statement of a qualified medical physician or certification from veterans administration affirming that the homeowner is totally disabled. Similar language already exists in the statutes of Nebraska for other sections regarding disabled persons. Section 60-311.14 which provides for handicapped plates defines a disabled person as one who has permanently lost the use of two or more extremities. Under Workmen's Compensation Law, Section 48-121 permanent total loss of the use of an arm is considered as the loss of the arm as is amputation of the arm above the elbow. Senator Chronister amended this section to include the amputation of both arms and I feel neuromuscular, neurological is even more important because mechanical devices which are triggered by electrical impulses of the nerves are impossible with this disease. Also with neurological or neuromuscular disease the person sometimes has spasms which are constant and, therefore, have effectively lost the use of their arms by losing the control. If we are sincere in affording equitable assistance as previous legislators have done, I believe they have tried to make assistance for a homeowner who has been struck with misfortune and has perhaps more expense in adjusting their home, then it is extremely important to add this disease provision to our homestead exemption. It is also appropriate that this legislation be passed in 1981 as the United Nations has designated 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons. I move that you advance LB 478.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hoagland moves to amend the bill and the amendment is on page 1078 of the Journal.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, on page 1078 of the Journal is an amendment which would extend the exemption to persons who qualify as mentally disabled under the