

January 12, 1982

LR 203

PRESIDENT: We are ready for LR 203.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first request I have on LR 203 is by Senator Newell to add his name as coinstructor.

PRESIDENT: Is there any objection to the addition of Senator Newell's name to LR 203? Hearing none, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 203, offered by Senator Landis, Chambers and Newell is found on page 152 of the Journal. (Read LR 203.) Mr. President, the resolution once again is found on page 152 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, how fitting it is that on the day we celebrate the completion of this architectural tribute to the spirit of our people are also called upon to pay tribute to a fine American, Martin Luther King, Jr. and to pay tribute to a life that is, I think, an example to all of us, black and white, for compassion and commitment, for purpose and for dignity. Reverend Martin Luther King was a well educated man, supporting himself through school for the most part, arriving at a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1955. He began the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 to teach the ways of nonviolence and to prepare most specially black Americans for struggling for and fighting for their rights in a nation that had deprived them of those rights for so terribly long. The struggle for those rights continued on for the rest of his life and ended frankly without every seeing their complete vindication. However, there were great milestones along the way for which he was in large measure, responsible. The 1963 march on Washington, the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1965 are achievements that I hope will live on far beyond our memory and our own lifetimes as well. Martin Luther King was a man who in life seemed to have the commitment of those around him in a near adoring way because of his ability to be such a fine example and yet in death we find those who would tarnish that legacy and I think we need to continue to understand that phenomenon of his life and his teachings which this state has recognized and has passed into statute by recognizing Martin Luther King Day as a holiday which is January 15. The resolution calls on Nebraskans to understand and to participate if they wish in those celebrations. I would remind the body this is not a state holiday by a paid vacation nor does it seek to require employers to release employees as a working day, questions that were raised last year. However, it remains on our

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