

April 1, 1982

LB 408, 602A, 611, 761, 952

CLERK: Yes, very quickly, Mr. President, I have a motion from Senator Newell regarding LB 952 to be printed in the Journal, Mr. President.

Your committee on Enrollment and Review respectfully reports they have carefully examined and reviewed LB 408 and recommend that same be placed on Select File; 611 Select File and 602A Select File.

Mr. President, a new A bill, 768A, offered by Senators Higgins, Labedz, DeCamp and Rumery. (Read. See page 1570 of the Journal.)

Mr. President, the next motion I have on LB 761 is a motion by Senator Koch and Nichol but I understand you want to withdraw that. Alright, Mr. President, the next motion is the one by Senator Richard Peterson and that is on page 1505 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Richard Peterson.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I guess why I am offering these three amendments is because of the last month when I went home, I have discussed many issues and some of them have been these agencies and the figures, how they have grown over the last number of years. And the story I get, about 100%, is, "My God, eliminate them or cut them down." So out of some of the agencies I am going to ask your consideration of the first amendment which I have to cut the Mexican-American Commission. All three of these amendments are directed to the economic situation in the State of Nebraska in 1982. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that there is a slumping economy in Nebraska which for agriculture may be comparable to the 1930s. We are looking at a shortfall for the state of fifty, who knows, maybe sixty million dollars. We are faced with a sharply reduced state budget. This is reality and none of us can live in a dream world at budget time. There was a public demand in the last election for less spending and less taxes and our economic situation in Nebraska reinforces that public demand. My amendments do not take money from the poor, the suffering, the senior citizens. They do not reduce the level of essential government services. My amendments are a part of a reappraisal of the need for some of our state's commissions and boards and their increasing budget requests. These amendments take into consideration the record unemployment in Nebraska and the real hardships faced by many, many Nebraska citizens and taxpayers. If we are going to have to raise the state individual income tax rate, the corporate tax, the cigarette tax in an effort to meet the state economic crisis then some of these other functions will have to be reduced.