

November 5, 1981

LR 1, 2

an error before. Now go back and increase the tax rates. You can do that. You do that through the bill.

PRESIDENT: The question is, Senator Wiitala, did you...motion is to withdraw. Did you wish to close on that? No. Okay, the question before the House is the withdrawal of LR 1, motion of Senator Wiitala himself. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. This is the motion to withdraw. Record the vote.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to withdraw, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. LR 1 is withdrawn. Anything further to read in at this point? We will go ahead then with LR 2.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 2 offered by Senator Landis. You will find it on page 53 and 54 of your Journal. (Read LR 2.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I know I will probably be disappointing the body tremendously when I say my remarks today will not include the reading of any poetry, either American or Russian. I intend to do this succinctly and get us back on the track of the tasks at hand. Senator Johnson offered me a vote in the event he was named Poet Laureate, by the way, on his way back to his desk but, of course, Senator Chambers is probably the far better candidate, at least from this body, to be named Poet Laureate. But the resolution does not, in fact, name a Poet Laureate but creates a body to be responsible for the selection of a Poet Laureate for the state. That body will be the Commission for the Humanities in Nebraska and that body is prepared to accept the responsibility to do this work and since they are not a state agency this will not be funded by state tax dollars and, therefore, requires no expenditure of state tax funds, which is a blessing I think to this body, and to the potential for the passage of this resolution. The Governor's Office has been apprised of this resolution and the intention to bring it and it is my understanding from representatives of the Commission that the Governor's Office has approved of the idea of the naming of a Poet Laureate and concurs that the Commission for Humanities is the adequate and acceptable and appropriate body to begin the selection process. John Niehardt served as the Poet Laureate until his death in 1973. In 1974 the Legislature passed a