

of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and colleagues, I stand before you today asking for a reconsideration of LR 88. I was absent due to illness the day that this issue was discussed and I think that it does merit our reconsideration, especially considering that today the talks in Geneva are about to commence. Now none of us in here are so naive as to think that a vote on this resolution is actually going to implement or change the policy that the leaders of our nation will, in fact, be negotiating. But I do feel that as elected representatives of the Nebraska citizenry that we should speak out and I would like to have the opportunity to speak out in favor of this resolution. I was sorry that I was unable to be here the day that the vote was taken. I find that the questionnaires coming back from my district overwhelmingly support the fact that we should speak positively that we would like to have a verifiable bilateral nuclear agreement on this particular issue. Now maybe it was fortunate that I was absent because I think with the amendments being proposed that this particular resolution will be in much better form than as it was offered and I am very supportive of those. So maybe this is a stroke of luck that it happened in the manner that it did. I want it perfectly clear that I am for the very wise use of nuclear energies and nuclear powers, not in the destructive manner but in the positive manner which can supplement the natural resources and powers of our nation. But I think that we need to wisely use this research and scientific technology that we have and can have presented for us in the generation of powers and for industry in a variety of other manners. I certainly, however, agree with former Governor Morrison who said, what difference does it make if we have the capacity to kill someone once or ten times? When we are having the tremendous budgetary problems at the federal level that we are and one of those items is the federal defense budget, then I think this is an item that we need to consider. I also agree that one of the worst parts of the federal defense budget is not necessarily our defense and our armaments but, in fact, is the retirement program that we have in effect that causes the federal defense budget to balloon. But, nevertheless, if we are unwilling as a nation to deal with that retirement system as it exists in the federal budget, then we are going to be forced to look at