

addition to these nine specific holidays, then the employees could select two additional holidays per year with the agreement of his or her immediate supervisor. So that means that if they feel that the Martin Luther King holiday is important enough, they could choose that as a holiday too. So we will see what the employees want. This bill will eliminate the control of the federal law and the proclamation over the state's paid holidays which is presently the case. So I think right now we are operating under two premises. First, we are observing all the federal holidays, and besides that we are also having some holidays of our own and I don't think we can have it both ways. I think it has either got to be either/or, and this would limit the Governor's authority to add additional days to...it would also allow him to add additional days to emergency situations. A paid holiday in Nebraska costs us a million bucks. It costs us a million dollars and I am saying to this body, let's take that million dollars and add it to the wages of our employees. I have talked to some state employees and they said, we can't eat the fringe benefits, we need more base salary, we need an increase in our wages. If we take an extra holiday, instead of earning money, we spend money and we need more base salary. This is one of the reasons why I introduced this bill. I am going to refrain from voting on this bill because I feel that if I vote for it, why I will say that I believe that we should have the Martin Luther King holiday and I don't agree with that. I just wanted to give you this information this morning.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I would like to be irrelevant for a moment, but it appears that it becomes necessary to be so. I want to talk about Khadafy and the letter that was drafted. I did draft the letter. I have no regrets about drafting the letter. I have no regrets about circulating the letter. I think it was the right thing to do and I would do it again. The reason that I chose an open letter to the public to be signed by senators was basically because I didn't want a debate on the floor of the Legislature on a subject that is not before us. Senator Chambers made the remarks as a way of illustrating a point in the debate on the code of conduct. It did not seem appropriate to me to reinstitute on the floor of the Legislature a debate, a full blown