

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would agree with Senator DeCamp's motion or amendment to LB 825. As I look at the holidays, I think some of them...I think maybe the better time to address this is when Senator Hefner's bill comes up, but on Arbor Day, and I say this with all due respect to Senator Carsten, who instituted it, I don't know a lot of people that go out and plant trees. I think that the greatest joke of all is Labor Day. That is a day that we are supposed to salute labor and yet that is the day that every merchant in Omaha, I can't speak for Lincoln, I am not down here then, but that is the day that every merchant makes money by advertising, we are open Labor Day. I don't see any salute to labor on that day, although I would not want to do away with it. But I would vote for Senator DeCamp's amendment now and at a later time take up Senator Hefner's idea. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this talk of holidays opens the way to discuss any issue relevant to holidays and the people to be honored. And I think racism is a very serious issue in this country despite that letter. One of the holidays I would like to see stricken is that called President's Day, because when you have presidents who acknowledge property in human beings and, as I say, produce illegitimate children, there certainly should not be a holiday set aside to honor them even if in the process you are trying to honor other people. In the same way that I was opposed to Reagan going to Bitburg where there are members of the SS buried, because there is no way you can remove their taint, the taint caused to the presidency by Thomas Jefferson, who was a slaveholder, despite saying in that Declaration of Independence, all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among these are right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, while he was writing that, he had slaves who built a fire to create enough light so he could see. George Washington, the Father of his country and the Father probably of all black people in this country named Washington because he was a slaveholder and produced illegitimate children too. President Rutherford B. Hayes, the same thing. And then we