

March 24, 1986      LB 1251

SPEAKER NICHOL: The report is adopted. We'll move on to General File, LB 1251.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1251 is of course the mainline appropriations bill. It was signed by the Appropriations Committee members. The bill has been considered on a couple of different occasions. Mr. President, the first amendment I have pending is an amendment from Senators Chizek, Hall, Labedz, and Rod Johnson. (Amendment is on page 1613 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chizek, please.

SENATOR CHIZEK: Mr. Speaker, members, this amendment would return \$8,478 to the Nebraska Veterans Council. Due to retirement and, of course, the cut last year and the fact that it is a small agency, and federal cuts, we would like to attempt to get that money restored. We feel it is very necessary in that small agency. So I would urge the body to return that \$8,478.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Warner, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, you have had handed out to you a summary of what the situation is with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The letter you all received indicated they had reductions of \$29,000 in the last few months. To make that clear, number one, a good portion of that was federal funds. And it has been the practice of the Appropriations Committee to very seldom, hardly ever, pick up federal funds where they have decreased. Of course this is going to become an increasing frequent question before this body in the next few months, as federal funds are declining, whether or not to pick those up. I think it also was indicated that because of retirement benefits that this was a shortfall. It has always been the policy of small agencies, where retirement benefits are required, that you put in additional funds to meet that. In '84-85 there was, you notice, 5,700 added for anticipated retirement. It did not occur, so in '85-86 that was reappropriated, plus an additional 1,400 that had accrued. And contained in this year's appropriation there was specifically \$9,882 to General Fund for the retirement benefits for the individual who is planning to leave. In