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LB 39. 39A, 234A

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I will withdraw the motion. I helped vote to make the mistake on the first one, I did not make a mistake on the second one, but I think that without question there is no tax relief out of what we have done so I will just acknowledge my mistake and let it go at that.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Mr. Clerk, we are ready then for...yes, and I have now for the record, I have signed a certificate showing that LB 39 has been, having been returned by the Governor, after a reconsideration having been passed by the Legislature by a constitutional majority and has become law this 27th day of May, 1981, and the same for LB 39A, having passed the Legislature by a constitutional majority and been returned by the Governor has become law this 27th day of May, 1981, and I have so certified on both 39 and 39A.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a new resolution to read in if I may.

PRESIDENT: All right, go ahead and read it in.

CLERK: (Read LB 190 by title. See page 2321 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over pursuant to our rules, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All right, read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first motion I have is on 234A. It is offered by Senator DeCamp. Senator DeCamp would move to return the bill for a specific amendment. (Read DeCamp amendment as found on page 2321 of the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, when we took the money, the extra ten dollar Workmen's comp increase out of 234 we have to correct the A bill. This corrects the A bill. This saves money.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Newell, did you have a question or is your light just on? You are just testing again for the afternoon, all right. Okay, any further discussion? The question is the adoption of the DeCamp amendment to LB 234A. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. This is for the return of LB 234A. Motion is to return. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay on the motion to return the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. LB 234A is returned. We are ready for the DeCamp motion. Senator DeCamp.

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CLERK: (Read the roll call vote as found on page 2377 of the Legislative Journal.) 25 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the resolution.

SENATOR CLARK: Motion carried. The resolution passed. LR 190.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 190 offered by Senators Hoagland, Wesely, Landis, found on page 2320. (Read LR 190.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, this particular resolution introduced by four of us is intended to recognize the efforts of Amnesty International, which is an international group that does what it can to secure the release of people who are held prisoner, largely in totalitarian countries around the world, for their political views, because of religious differences or for other matters of conscience. I think all of you are probably quite familiar with its activities. We have quite a number of totalitarian regimes in this hemisphere and elsewhere, which hold people for all kinds of different reasons oftentimes having nothing to do with things brought about by those individuals. The Soviet Union, of course, has a long history of discrimination against the Jews. Many totalitarian regimes in South America hold people without trial, without even levying charges against them for purely political reasons because they oppose the policies of that particular regime. This resolution is simply intended to recognize the efforts of Amnesty International and lend support to its international efforts and I would recommend that this body adopt it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if Senator Hoagland would yield to a question, please.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Senator Hoagland, in Christian conscience I feel that there is a close relationship between this particular resolution and the so-called Christian school bill. I am wondering if a group of us decided as Christians to vote for this particular resolution, if you would likewise do the same...place yourself in the same position as far as the Christian schools are concerned.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Well, Senator Peterson, I think if there were any Christians in Cass County who were being held in prison, being tortured, having their lives

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threatened simply by virtue of the fact that they were Christians and wished to exercise their religious beliefs freely. I would clearly oppose that. I don't think, however, that this particular...I don't think that there are any other similarities. I don't think there are any similarities between the Christian school amendment which seeks to relieve the Christian schools even of minimal regulation by the State of Nebraska to assure the most basic kind of quality of grade school education, and the problems that we're experiencing in the Soviet Union and elsewhere where innocent people are being locked up, tortured, sometimes killed, for religious views or political views.

SENATOR H. PETERSON: Well I guess the question I would have whether or not this then has any relationship, for instance to those who left this country during the Vietnam War because they wanted to avoid going to prison, is this amnesty group one that is voting or working to try to get that group back into this country? Or what is the relationship with Amnesty in this regard?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: No, it has nothing to do with that, Senator Peterson. There was an article, a condensed book in the New Yorker Magazine four weeks ago written by an Argentine publisher, Mr. Zimmerman, who was incarcerated in Argentina for two and a half to three years, tortured, almost killed because his newspaper dared publish articles that were critical of the regime...the extremist regime in power there. Now Amnesty International is a group in the United States that writes letters on behalf of people in the Soviet Union, like Mr. Sakharov and others who are being imprisoned in the Soviet Union because of their religious views or political views, people in countries like Uruguay or Argentina. It really has nothing to do with the problem of dissent resulting from the Vietnam War in the United States.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a good afternoon to spend on stuff like this. I hate to expose my ignorance but I haven't heard of Amnesty International and I assume everyone else on the floor has. So I don't really know what this outfit consists of, whether they deal in amnesty around the world, whether they are an organization that hides behind a nice sounding name and has nice sounding goals and does good things for the public, and I just wonder what good this kind of a resolution does if we do or don't pass it. Senator Higgins, you seem knowledgeable

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about this, would you tell me about this Amnesty International? I just don't comprehend yet.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I don't know if I can answer you a hundred percent honestly but it seems to me they originally started during the Vietnam War and I recall it was last summer and the summer before that the Amnesty group paraded up and down Strategic Air Command, or many of their members calling themselves another group. Amnesty in Omaha as far as I can see the ones I have seen in Omaha are pretty much what they call themselves the Peaceniks, and the ones that stop, you know, and lay themselves sometimes across the entrance to the Strategic Air Command and paint blood on signs and etcetera. I think they are the same ones that worked during the Ford Administration and the Carter Administration to get amnesty for the fellows from Canada. Now, Senator Hoagland says they are not, they might not be, but I think they had their roots in that original group.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And having had three nephews that served in Vietnam, two of them at the same time, I don't think I would go for anything connected with the word "amnesty", even President Ford when he offered them amnesty, the chickens liked the coop up in Canada better, so that's the most I know about it.

SENATOR NICHOL: Okay, thank you, Senator Higgins. I just have serious reservations about voting for something with us not knowing any more than some of us at least do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CLARK: Before I call on the next speaker, I would like to introduce the guests of Senator Shirley Marsh. I think she felt the need to have her own Pastor here today for some reason. I would like to introduce Reverend Rodney Wilmoth, a real personal friend of mine, from the Methodist Church here. Senator Wilmoth....I insist on calling you Senator Wilmoth, is that all right, Rod? Thank you. Welcome to the Legislature. Senator Chambers is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I find it quite ironic that a man named Peter Hoagland would sign a resolution like this, talking about people imprisoned solely for and among other things their color and wants to proclaim May 28th

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Prisoner of Conscience Day. I want Senator Hoagland to know there are more ways to put people in prison than to put them in a cage. You can imprison them in a ghetto as the Jews very effectively found out, Senator Hoagland. And I think this is the height of hypocrisy and it would be wrong for this Legislature to pass this resolution after the vote it just took. You all are not touched in your spirit by the things that happen on this floor in the way that I am. And I feel the last vote was a racist vote, and there is no way...and I am talking about the ones who voted for the resolution, not those who voted no, and Senator Marsh, this time I had the forethought to get a copy of the voting record so I know how to distinguish those who I feel are racist from those who are not. To let a white person get on the floor of this Legislature and persuade other white people to do that which will destroy a black community and then bring forth a resolution directly after that talking about conscience, prisoners of conscience, there is no more dramatic way than to juxtapose two ideas like this to show the hypocrisy that prevails in this body. I know that whoever offered this resolution, and I am excluding those on the resolution who are sincere, would know that it would follow behind one that was offered by Senator Newell. But there is no way that there can be 25 votes for this resolution when there were 25 for the one just before it. And I think the issues are joined and related. It is one thing to talk principle when you are talking about something far, far away, and another thing to put it into practice when it sits right here in the Legislature or in a community of this state. I see so many things that are troubling to me, how people, somebody may get a firearm and not register it, and commit a crime. And it's wrong to have an unregistered firearm, but we know there are people who get firearms and give them to people knowing that it is not registered in the name of that person to whom it is given. We have people like that right in this body who know about things like that, and yet they might be against gun control or talk so much about prisoners and crimes with handguns. And yet these upstanding citizens know that there are other upstanding citizens providing handguns which ultimately wind up being used to commit a homicide, and the one who commits the homicide happens to be touched in the head and will probably cop a plea of insanity. Those things were not discussed on the floor when we shed out our garments of self-righteousness and holiness. But Senator Newell stood here and said, I have told you unless I get my way, there will be the devil to pay. You don't have to pay the devil. You don't have to come

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in the ghetto. You don't have to drive between these earthen mounds that they are going to flank the highway with, which are supposed to protect you. But the vulnerable position is to be in a low place and your enemy has the high ground. I hope Senator Newell drives this road, then maybe he will wind up being a prisoner of conscience. And next May 28th a resolution can be offered like this and one of your former colleagues will be the one who is being commemorated. He has gone into other people's districts to try to hinder and intermeddle. Well, it's probably time that people go into his district and liberate him. I think the resolution by itself in a vacuum would have value. I think it would be worthy of serious consideration. But under the circumstances of this Legislature....

SENATOR CLARK: You have...(microphone not on)...seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How many, Mr. Chairman?

SENATOR CLARK: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Under the present circumstances of this Legislature and this day, I think it would not be appropriate. I am not going to suggest how you ought to vote on it, but I will suggest that if you voted your conscience on the last one, you ought to vote your conscience on this one too, and there ought to be a consistency.

SENATOR CLARK: There is a motion on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senators Hoagland and Landis would ask unanimous consent to lay over the resolution.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any dissension? If not, so ordered. It will be laid over. LR 191.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 191 offered by the Business and Labor Committee. It's found on page 2323. Reads as follows: (Read LR 191.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is a vehicle by which the Legislature approved the labor contracts that were presented to our committee. And we held a hearing on these labor contracts on May 20th. There was no opposition from either side. The only contract that wasn't completed was the one with the Douglas County