

November 3, 1981

LR 2

CLERK: Senator, you know until we see LB 7 on the floor, I mean the Speaker will make those decisions after LB 7 is reported to the Legislature.

SENATOR FENGER: LB 7 then was not reported to General File as was 8?

CLERK: No, sir. LB 7 is being held by the Public Health and Welfare Committee.

SENATOR FENGER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR HABERMAN: A point of personal privilege, a question. How many votes will it take to...this body can decide whether we meet Saturday or Monday, is that correct?

PRESIDENT: Sure.

SENATOR HABERMAN: How many votes if it is scheduled to meet Saturday to change the agenda to Monday?

PRESIDENT: To change the agenda requires 30 votes because that is changing the Speaker's order. However, I presume that on a motion to adjourn which only takes 25 votes, if I may suggest; that decision...

SENATOR HABERMAN: To recess or adjourn, right?

PRESIDENT: It is the regular...when you decide, the motion before us right now is to adjourn until tomorrow. It only takes 25 votes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: So Friday we could say adjourn until Monday and it would take 25 votes?

PRESIDENT: I think the Speaker will tell you that has not been that firmly decided because we don't know. Okay, anything further then? Senator Lamb, where are you? Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, I move we adjourn until Wednesday, November 4th at 9:00 a.m.

PRESIDENT: Okay, we now do have this resolution here. Do you want to allow it to be read in? All right, read it in.

CLERK: Mr. President, Legislative Resolution 2 offered by Senator Landis. (Read. See pages 53-54, Legislative Journal.)

November 5, 1981

LR 1, 2

an error before. Now go back and increase the tax rates. You can do that. You do that through the bill.

PRESIDENT: The question is, Senator Wiitala, did you...motion is to withdraw. Did you wish to close on that? No. Okay, the question before the House is the withdrawal of LR 1, motion of Senator Wiitala himself. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. This is the motion to withdraw. Record the vote.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to withdraw, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. LR 1 is withdrawn. Anything further to read in at this point? We will go ahead then with LR 2.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 2 offered by Senator Landis. You will find it on page 53 and 54 of your Journal. (Read LR 2.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I know I will probably be disappointing the body tremendously when I say my remarks today will not include the reading of any poetry, either American or Russian. I intend to do this succinctly and get us back on the track of the tasks at hand. Senator Johnson offered me a vote in the event he was named Poet Laureate, by the way, on his way back to his desk but, of course, Senator Chambers is probably the far better candidate, at least from this body, to be named Poet Laureate. But the resolution does not, in fact, name a Poet Laureate but creates a body to be responsible for the selection of a Poet Laureate for the state. That body will be the Commission for the Humanities in Nebraska and that body is prepared to accept the responsibility to do this work and since they are not a state agency this will not be funded by state tax dollars and, therefore, requires no expenditure of state tax funds, which is a blessing I think to this body, and to the potential for the passage of this resolution. The Governor's Office has been apprised of this resolution and the intention to bring it and it is my understanding from representatives of the Commission that the Governor's Office has approved of the idea of the naming of a Poet Laureate and concurs that the Commission for Humanities is the adequate and acceptable and appropriate body to begin the selection process. John Niehardt served as the Poet Laureate until his death in 1973. In 1974 the Legislature passed a

resolution naming a commission to pick a successor to that position. However, that committee has not accomplished its work largely due to the fact that, number one, expenses were not provided, and, number two, there has been illness on that commission and, in fact, since that time the death of a couple of members of that original search committee. It is time to renew the search for a Poet Laureate and I think as a gesture of good faith this body needs to be on the record to indicate its willingness to go forward with the project and that is why this resolution is before you. The resolution simply states that the Commission for the Humanities will enunciate an open selection process and that at the end of that process recommendations will be made to the Legislature and to the Governor. Again the responsibility to name a Poet Laureate is not being given to the Commission. Rather that power still rests with this body and with the Governor and we simply seek from the Commission recommendations for people who would be an appropriate person to be named Poet Laureate for this state. Since it costs no monies, since it serves a noble purpose, and since all parties have been apprised and apparently are willing to take up this task, both the Governor's Office and the Commission, I would urge its adoption and move the body to pass LR 2 at this time.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. No. The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Mr. President, Senators, Senator Landis, would you answer a couple of questions for me?

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, will you respond?

SENATOR LANDIS: Yes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: What does "laureate" mean?

SENATOR LANDIS: It comes from a laurel wreath. It means to be honored and it means the poet laureate who is the honored poet of the state and comes from the same expression as perhaps the garland that is worn by a champion in the Greek days in the Olympic games.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. Would you have any objections to changing your resolution to read "poet or poetess" laureate?

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. The term "poet" is a term that can apply both to a male and a female writer of poetry as Emily Dickinson is referred to as an American poet.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I am very much aware of that but the reason I am making the point, Senator, is I wouldn't want this special commission to think that "poet" would necessarily mean only those who are famous because they are male. As you know, we have had many great women writers who adopted male names because it wasn't considered proper at one time for a woman to write or to be published. So that is the only reason I would suggest that in your resolution or if you want you can send an accompanying letter to the commission when your resolution is adopted, and I will vote for the resolution, if you will agree to send them a covering letter saying, "We hope you will consider as many female poets as you do male poets", and it is about time, you know, that we had perhaps a female poet laureate.

SENATOR LANDIS: I will direct comments specifically to the Chairman or rather the Director of the Commission for the Humanities, Mrs. Anne Cognard, that women poets should certainly be given at least equal consideration for the position.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Landis, I would really appreciate that. Did she draw up the resolution?

SENATOR LANDIS: It was a joint effort.

SENATOR HIGGINS: It was a joint effort. I would say this, maybe we ought to get a new director if she didn't think of this in the first place. Thank you, Senator.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LR 2? Senator Landis, you may close on LR 2. All right, the motion then before the House is the adoption of LR 2. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDENT: I didn't hear you. All right, motion carries. LR 2 is adopted. Do you have anything to read in?

CLERK: Yes, Mr. President, I have an Attorney General's Opinion addressed to Senator Nichol. That will be inserted in the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol. Yes, we will just continue on unless somebody moves for something else. Senator Nichol.

November 7, 1981

LR 2, 5, 6
LB 8

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

DR. PALMER: Prayer offered.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Record your presence please. Record the vote.

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are there corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are there any items under number four?

CLERK: Mr. President, one more item, LR 2, 5, 6 are ready for your signature.

SPEAKER MARVEL: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I am about to sign and do sign LR 2, LR 5, LR 6. Senator Koch, your light is on.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, a point of personal privilege.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Will you state the point to the Chair please.

SENATOR KOCH: Yes. Prior to the time of our voting on LB 8, I want to explain to this body, for the record, my vote. My vote is going to be negative, not because I do not realize the fiscal problems of this state but because I am still upset by the fact that we did not adopt the Warner amendment. Had we adopted that amendment I would have voted aye for LB 8, because that is the only way to face the future.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Will you all return to your seats so that we can proceed with Final Reading. Okay, there is a motion on the desk. The Clerk will read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Fowler would move to return LB 8 to Select File for specific amendment. That amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,