

January 6, 1982

LR 200

Mr. President, I am sorry I overlooked one item, LR 200 offered by Senator Lowell Johnson. (Read LR 200 as found on page 109 of the Legislative Journal.) That too will be laid over, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair would recognize the motion to recess until 1:30. Senator Beutler, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I move we recess until 1:30.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of that motion say aye. Opposed no. The motion is carried. We are recessed until 1:30.

Edited by:

Marilyn Zank  
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LR 197, 200  
LB 664

PRESIDENT: Is Senator Johnson here? Senator Kilgarin, will you handle LB 664 on Select File? LB 664 on Select File, no E & R amendments.

SENATOR KILGARIN: I move to advance LB 664.

PRESIDENT: Motion then is to advance LB 664 to E & R. Is there any discussion? If not, all those in favor signify by saying aye, opposed nay. LB 664 is advanced to E & R for review. We are now ready for agenda item #6 on Resolutions and starting with LR 197. Mr. Clerk, go ahead.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 197 is found on page 106 of the Journal. It is offered by Senator Koch. (Read.) It is found on page 106, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you, Mr. President. This is a noncontroversial resolution. It has no impact in terms of dollars but it has an awful lot of impact in terms of people of all ages and I have been asked to introduce this resolution on behalf of the Library Commission, the Nebraska Department of Education, elementary principals and other interested groups in the area of education and I would hope that there would be no red votes on this resolution and there is no need to advise you any further since you can read and I think you can understand this. It is very explicit. I ask for the adoption of LR 197.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LR 197? Seeing none, Senator Koch, I guess that is your opening and your closing. The question before the House is the adoption of LR 197. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of LR 197, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and LR 197 is adopted. Next Legislative Resolution is LR 200.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 200 offered by Senator Lowell Johnson is found on page 109 of the Journal. (Read.) Mr. President, it is offered by Senator Johnson and is found on page 109 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR LOWELL JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. President. I was privileged to serve on the committee to commemorate the

50th Anniversary of this fine State Capitol Building, and in observance of this very important date, I do have some comments to add to the resolution read. The first Capitol Building of the State of Nebraska was finished one month before the meeting of the Second State Legislature in January, 1869. It was completed at a cost of \$75,000 and had been designed to allow for future expansion and following that wings were added in 1881 and 1882 and by 1888 the entire structure had been rebuilt. After the turn of the century, dissatisfaction with the building began to grow because overcrowding and decay had rendered the structure unsuitable. But it was not until after the end of the great war that a serious effort was started towards construction of a new facility. On February 20th, 1919, Governor Sam McKelvie approved House Roll #3 which allowed for the establishment of a commission which was authorized to construct a new Capitol Building, financing to be provided by a special mill levy and the tax levies during the early years were 22¢ on every \$1,000 of valuation. The last levy in the years 31-32 and 32-33 amounted to only 11¢ per \$1,000. The commission which was chaired by Governor McKelvie was composed of leading citizens from around the state: William H. Thompson, Attorney from Grand Island, Nebraska; Walter H. Head, Banker from Omaha; William E. Hardy, Merchant in Lincoln; and George E. Johnson, the State Engineer at the time from Lincoln. Omaha Architect Thomas E. Kimball, then President of the American Institute of Architects, was appointed as their professional advisor. He set up a series of competitions designed to select an architect who would produce "an inspiring monument worthy of the state for which it stands; a thing of beauty, so conceived and fashioned as to properly record and exploit our civilization, aspirations, and patriotism, past, present, and future." In July of 1920, a panel of three architects awarded the project to Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue of New York City. Goodhue submitted a design which departed from the vogue of U.S. Capitol imitations, such as the style of the Capitol of the State of Missouri, which was authorized and constructed in the same year. So in a ceremony held on April 15, 1922, Governor McKelvie broke the ground for this new Capitol Building. The project proceeded on a "Pay As You Go Basis" so that the state would not go into debt. Most interesting to note is the total cost for the project in 1932 was \$10,021,836.69. The project was originally designed to commemorate soldiers from Nebraska who died in World War I, but it became much more than that. It became the symbol of the people of the vast agricultural empire which once covered almost one-third of our nation. This building was constructed with the best building products that nature had to offer -- marble from North Africa and Europe,

onyx from Utah and Vermont, bronze from New York and Michigan, and walnut and cement from our own State of Nebraska. Materials for this great structure came from around the nation and around the world, but it was the indomitable spirit of the citizens of our state that put it all together. This blending of steel and stone and sinew produced a building which reflects the history of art, law and literature. It also reflects the native history and Indian lore of our state and the development of our nation as a whole. This project never would have been realized on such a grand scale without the artistic genius of sculptor Lee Laurie. His affectionate collaboration with architect Goodhue allowed such a perfect meshing of art and architecture that it becomes impossible to decide where one stops and the other begins. His work with the medium of bas-relief provides us with scenes of many of the great moments in law giving--from Moses to the Magna Carta--and adds to and enlarges the dignity and heritage of our legislative body. His greatest contribution crowns our building with the symbol of our state's greatest and most important industry, and reflects the pride and determination of the individualism which has made Nebraska's agriculture distinguished and respected in the eyes of the world. The State Capitol Commission perhaps put it best in one of their statements which said "The Capitol of a state is the outward sign of the character of its people--their respect for its traditions and history, their belief in its importance and worth and their love of its fair name. Let the new Capitol be their symbol." That statement, incidentally, so well conceived appears on the logo which is shown on the seal and the button placed on your desks. As we begin to celebrate the 50th year of the Nebraska State Capitol, we should realize that the intent is not that of adoration of a building or monument; rather, it should be understood that we are celebrating an important event in Nebraska's great history. During all of 1982 we shall be developing and participating in many forms of celebration--Statehood Day, grand opening of the 5th floor of this building, concerts, receptions, displays and art and ethnic festivals among many others. It is hoped that all of us will take time to share in some segment of this 50th anniversary celebration. This Capitol, were it not for the people of this state, would mean very little. It is only when one is mindful of the heritage of a great people and a great land that one can sense the true importance of the beautiful Nebraska Capitol Building. We are not honoring mortar and stone, but rather the principles for which that mortar and stone stand--the spirit of the people of Nebraska. Mr. President and colleagues, the Capitol does not belong to us in the Legislature--rather, pride of ownership is shared by the people of the 93 counties of this state inscribed

around the outside of the building. Let this year be a celebration of these people and for these people, and for this building, which has become a symbol of their hopes and dreams, their heritage, and all of their finer qualities. Thank you, Mr. President, and I move for adoption of LR 200.

PRESIDENT: Thank you for words well said, Senator Johnson. We have Senator Cope next to speak. The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I would like to add a few words to Senator Johnson's excellent presentation and to thank him for the resolution, LR 200, as you found on your desk. I like it. I would like to congratulate the Legislature and Legislatures dating back to 1975 for funding money to do the repair. I came to the Legislature in 1975 and I think everyone, not everyone, but the great majority of members at that time were sick and tired of the deplorable condition this building was in. With buckets and tubs in the hallways when it rained to catch the water and stains and the general condition of the building. More money was allotted to DAS in the Building Department or whatever the department is in DAS plus five years ago this Legislature passed 309 which was the building renewal or deferred maintenance for all state buildings. As you well know, a great deal of money has been spent to bring state buildings up-to-date but especially this building which we are in today. I can say that now the Capitol is in very good shape and I think it is the thing to do. If the people back in depression days of the Thirties could build a beautiful building like this, certainly we in Nebraska today can maintain it and I am proud, I know you are proud, that we have this building back, not in the original, but almost original condition.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I certainly echo what has been said about the Capitol. I guess I have a special interest in the Capitol because my grandparents lived about twenty miles east of Lincoln here when I was a young man, a young boy, and we traveled back and forth several times during each year and I remember very well the progress of the building of this beautiful Capitol and, of course, at that time I was quite impressed and never realized that I would be part of the Legislature in this body some day. So I have a very deep feeling and my parents ahead of me also did because we would stop and walk around the building as it progressed, and when the names of the counties were put up around the edge around the top, we walked completely around to see if they

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were all there and so I have a deep feeling. I am very pleased that we are commemorating this 50th anniversary. I also honor the foresight of those people that had the foresight to plan a building such as this in a state like Nebraska and the confidence they had in the future and, of course, the progress that they showed. I sometimes wonder if we still have that incentive. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members, I am sure that all of us agree that we do have the most beautiful Capitol Building. We agree with what has been said thus far. I would just like to call your attention to one thing. The statute at the very top to crown this beautiful building is not the statute of a doctor, a lawyer or a school teacher, it is a farmer.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett. Senator, I believe everyone has spoken that wants to so we are ready for a close.

SENATOR BARRETT: All right, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Johnson, do you have any close? Well, as one who watched this Tower on the Plains rise to its splendor, I take great pleasure in putting the question of the passage of LR 200 to the body. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 42 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of LR 200.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries and LR 200 is adopted.

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SENATOR SCHMIT: Because we know if you include the incorporated area the rural people will be outvoted ten to one most times and we don't like that and so as a result we exclude them. Ladies and gentlemen, it won't work and as Senator DeCamp has said, we will be coming back here next year and try to bail ourselves out quietly, peacefully and piecemeal. Rather than to get ourselves out of a trap, let's stay out of the trap.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I think we need to recess now. Let me indicate the order after the recess. Senator Koch, Senator Lamb, Senator Beutler and Senator Haberman. Do you have something to read in?

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read by title for the first time, LBs 814-819 as found on pages 266-267 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, a new resolution, LR 206 by Senator Chambers. (Read as found on pages 267-268 of the Legislative Journal.) That will be laid over, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Senator Richard Peterson would like to print amendments to LB 267. (See page 268 of the Journal.)

And, finally, LR 203, 200 and 197 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 203, 200 and 197. Senator Vickers, do you want to recess us until one-thirty, please?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, I move that we recess until one-thirty this afternoon.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All in favor of that motion say aye, opposed no. The motion is carried. We are recessed until one-thirty.

Edited by L. M. Benischek  
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