

March 15, 1982

LR 249, 250
LB 378A, 890A, 202

CLERK: Mr. President, some items to read in very quickly. New resolutions, LR 249 (read); LR 250 (read). (See pages 1171 and 1172, Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, I have an Attorney General's opinion addressed to Senator Goodrich regarding LB 202. That will be put in the Journal.

And, Mr. President, Senator Lamb announces Special Order item for Thursday, March 18th.

SENATOR LAMB: Next will be #7, General File, LB 378A, Senator Cullan.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 378A offered by Senator Cullan. (Read title).

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move the advancement of LB 378A. This is the A bill to carry out the appropriation of cash funds from the \$500 application fee, application fee which we adopted in the original bill. It involves absolutely no general funds, only those fees collected. I ask for advancement of LB 378A.

SENATOR CLARK: Any discussion on the advancement of the bill? If not, all those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted?

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the advancement of the bill? Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. LB 890A.

CLERK: Mr. President, 378A, I have a unanimous consent request from Senator Cullan to expedite that bill.

SENATOR CLARK: No objection. So ordered. 890A.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 890A (read title).

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch...Senator Vickers.

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for their concern at the time of the tornado in Grand Island. I know our community appreciated very much the quick response from the Legislature in concern, and I just would ask you to vote unanimously to pass this resolution.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I, too, rise to support this resolution. The tornado that went through that area did a tremendous amount of damage and out of this came...and I call it a city that got the spirit and determination to rebuild itself and it is to be congratulated. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion on LR 249? Senator Peterson, do you wish to close? All right, the question then is the adoption of LR 249. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the resolution, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and LR 249 is adopted. Before we go to LR 250, the Chair would like to introduce on behalf of Senator Kahle, Ann Sprague and Melanie Dorn from Red Cloud, Nebraska. They are under the south balcony. Would those two ladies stand up, please, and be recognized. Welcome to your Unicameral, ladies. We are ready then, Mr. Clerk, for LR 250.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first item I have on 250 is a request from Senator Fowler to add his name as coinstructor.

PRESIDENT: You have heard the request of Senator Fowler. Any objections? If not, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 250 offered by Senators Schmit, Witala, Remmers, Burrows, Wagner, Richard Peterson, Sieck and Nichol, found on page 1172 of the Journal. (Read LR 250.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I want to welcome first of all Senator Fowler. We do appreciate your support, Senator Fowler. We hope that you continue to follow with us. As we get into revenue bills and appropriation bills I am sure we can use your support. I would also like to ask permission to add the names of Senator Maurice Kremer to the resolution. Senator Kremer is one of the deans of agriculture in this body; Senator

Elroy Hefner and also Senator Vard Johnson; Senator Howard Peterson, Senator John DeCamp, Lowell Johnson, I guess we are just going to have most of them. It must be election year. Anyone who wishes to add their name in addition to those that I have called upon would please go to the Clerk's desk and make their wishes known. I want to say in all seriousness that this is an important resolution. Those of us in this body recognize the importance of agriculture. We acknowledge it every day. We have had many indications in the past several months that we have been engaged in debate here, that the state of agriculture has had a profound adverse impact upon the budget discussions of this body. And I think that we recognize that as agriculture goes so does the rest of the state, the nation and inevitably the world. I would like to call attention to the ladies underneath the north balcony. They are the wives of a group of Nebraska Livestock Feeders. One of them is my sister-in-law, Mrs. Sally Schmit. We are proud to have them here. If you don't believe that they have a profound influence upon the agricultural industry, just go back and ask anyone of them. They have been telling me that all morning. But we are glad to have them here. We welcome them and we also welcome their continued support of agriculture not only as individuals but as members of a very fine organization. I appreciate the consideration that has always been shown to agriculture by this body and I would like to yield just a little of my time to Senator Kremer who has a few remarks to say.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, the Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Schmit, I appreciate very much your allotting some of your speaking time and I am not going to say a lot, but what I say I mean. I think we are beginning to wake up to the fact that agriculture is important to this great country of ours. Many, many years ago because of what took place in the sweat shops and the advantage that industry took on labor we set forth as a nation to set aside a certain day known as Labor Day. Labor has gone a long, long way because of that and we are recognizing today the importance of labor like not many countries do. Now side by side with that I think we are going to have to wake up to the fact that agriculture is more important than most of us have been willing to admit or have recognized. What is being demonstrated in the world economy today is based on this very thing. I have long said and I still believe it, you get agriculture to going in this nation of ours and this economy is going to turn around. I am a strong supporter of the resolution and will go on record and say I am proud to be a farmer.

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PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am glad to have a chance to speak on behalf of this resolution. I am extremely grateful for the urban senators that are also supporting this resolution in recognizing the major industry of the State of Nebraska. I think it comes out with some points that the joined interest that exists in this state, this state's number one industry is agriculture and the unemployment problems of the cities are interrelated with the welfare and the prosperity of its agriculture. Also, agriculture has serious concerns with the national unemployment problems. Our beef prices probably reflect a great deal of the high unemployment because unemployed people are not good buyers of beef. I think this is a good chance with this resolution to do some thinking in the areas of co-interest between agriculture and the urban areas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to Senator Wagner, the Chair would like to introduce a guest of Senator Harry Chronister, Mrs. Melvin Sahs of Schuyler. She is the mother of Jean Sahs who is one of our Pages here. So would Mrs. Sahs stand up. Welcome to the Legislature, Mrs. Sahs. The Chair recognizes Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker and members, I do support this resolution and this is Agriculture Day and agriculture week. But kind of on the humorous side, Senator Lowell Johnson and I would kind of urge you to maybe vote for this resolution if you would like maybe any popcorn here on the floor.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I am glad to have led an urban stampede to join this resolution. I think that Senator Kremer indicated that, in fact, historically there has been an oversight, that there has been a Labor Day but not an Agriculture Day, and I think that is a very worthwhile point to do in considering this. I must admit that I have an ulterior motive in adding my name. I had such bad luck with resolutions a couple days ago that I thought this is one they might pass and I wanted to get my name on it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, only to say that I am also proud to be a farmer and to represent an agricultural... really agricultural area in southeast Nebraska, and to

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inform you that if I return next year or if I don't, that we will see that agriculture in the form of delicious apples will be here again next year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, as this is farmers' day, I feel I qualify to get up and also say something. My family has been on the same section now for a hundred and one years and I don't know whether that is a record or not for anybody in the Legislature but I think it is close. But anyhow one of the things I want to draw your attention to, the World Herald had an article a few days ago about the effect of agriculture on Nebraska and on the City of Omaha, and the figure as I remember was that the effect of agriculture on the City of Omaha is \$3½ billion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. Some of you may be surprised to know that I also have farm background and very much support this amendment. I also am proud that I was formerly an urban senator but now I am going to become a rural senator. I have some rural land being added to District 10 and I am happy to have that included in District 10, and want you to know that now I am a rural senator and support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, Mr. President, I had to get my two cents in here too, I guess. I wish I could....I hope that a hundred and some years from now I can say the same things that Senator Kahle did, or that my future generations will be able to. But unless something is done in agriculture I am going to be lucky if I can say that five years from now, I can tell you that, that I am still on that same farm. But I do rise to support this resolution and hope that it will be a unanimous vote obviously. But I would like to say one further thing that in spite of what my good friend, Senator Wagner threatened us with about if we didn't vote for this, he wasn't going to give us any popcorn and I told him I didn't particularly care because I was going to go back out here in the rotunda and get some good beef anyhow.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the Chair recognizes Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and colleagues, I would like to draw your attention to the

article that Senator Kahle referred to that was just recently printed as an expression of the City of Omaha of the deep indebtedness that they feel as far as agriculture's impact upon this city. I would also like to say, welcome to Senator Pirsch because my district is three-quarters agriculture although three-quarters of its population lies in the city and that she now belongs to that distinguished group of senators that call themselves "rurban" senators which is a combination of rural and urban districts. Thank you, agriculture.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise to support this resolution and I am thankful that Senator Schmit let me sign on with it. I am coming from a little different angle. I am going to speak as a business man, and I can tell you this, as farm economy drops so does business. And as the saying goes in Nebraska, as agriculture goes so goes the state, and this is certainly true. I urge you to support the resolution.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lowell Johnson.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I consider it a privilege to add my name to the resolution sponsored by various other senators this morning. I do not join in the threat of lack of popcorn for the body. In fact, I believe I see popcorn being served out in the rotunda along with the beef today. So if everybody needs popcorn today, it is available out there. I would like to also add that our family farm has been in the same family for a record I am sure of members in the body because it is now, or will be in October, one hundred and twenty-four years. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Peterson.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Mr. President and fellow colleagues, I, too, rise and I, of course, signed onto this resolution and I am glad so many have signed onto it. I think we can be thankful that we are in an agricultural area and that we do supply the food to feed the nation. It is sad in a lot of respects, I think, that so many people especially in the big cities do not realize who actually supplies their food and where it comes from. It has always disappointed me to that respect. And all I have got to say I hope there is a unanimous vote for this resolution, and, right on, agriculture.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kilgarin.

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SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature. I am not a "rurban" senator. I am an urban senator but I do support agriculture. About the only agriculture I have in my neighborhood, Senator Peterson, is the garden in our back yard. But there is a stockyard close by and my grandfather used to work there and we know the contribution agriculture does make to our city. So I ask unanimous consent to add my name to LR 250. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, as a young man who was blown off the farm in the dirty thirties I have a special appreciation for agriculture and particularly Senator Schmit who tells me how much he loses every day but still succeeds and manages to stay on the farm. So I support the resolution.

PRESIDENT: Now we are ready for Senator Schmit to close, but before you do, Senator Schmit, let me introduce some visitors from Senator Hoagland's District. I presume, Senator Hoagland, they are under the south balcony, are they not? Under the south balcony over here and that is Ann Boyle, the wife of Mayor Mike Boyle from Omaha; Don Zern and Al Abrahamson, some business men from Omaha. Would the three of you stand and welcome to your Legislature folks. Now, Senator Schmit, would you please close on LR 250.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. I believe Senator Warner wants to make a comment and then I will close.

PRESIDENT: You want to share your closing with Senator Warner. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, the thought just occurred to me after Senator Koch's comments that I did want to indicate that it is true that you can still make a small fortune farming but, of course, you have to start with a large fortune.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Warner, and now, Senator Schmit, that sets you up for a fine closing.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I really don't know how I can top that one, Senator Warner. I just want to say this that I am glad to have all of these urban people join us and I am glad to have my colleagues and many of you express your appreciation of agriculture. You know, I have a confession to make. I am no longer really a full-fledged farmer, I guess. The City of Bellwood, all 410 people, have now gone to 422. They

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annexed the Schmit home so that I live in an incorporated city. I am also pleased to know that the World Herald will now upon at least two occasions a year say something nice about agriculture if we have an agricultural day. And I would just like to suggest to the ladies that are underneath the balcony that in private conversation that Senator Kremer and I had with Senator Kilgarin, she mentioned that if any of them have a young man of marriageable age that she is interested. And I would like to just give my friend, Senator Higgins, one second of my time and this will be the last of my words, but Senator Higgins might want to say a word.

PRESIDENT: You are yielding to Senator Higgins. All right, Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to add this comment that even though I, too, am from the urban area I have signed onto this resolution with the understanding that none of those stories I have heard about the traveling salesman and the farmer's daughters are true. Thank you, senators.

PRESIDENT: Okay, Senator Schmit, does that take care of the closing? Senator Schmit, do you wish to try to top that?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I couldn't do that.

PRESIDENT: Okay, the question then is the adoption of LR 250. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We want to give all the urban senators a chance to vote on this so....oh, no, she has got to come here herself. I don't think that will be construed as opposed to the agricultural interests though, I don't believe. Record the vote.

CLERK: 43 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to introduce the resolution.

PRESIDENT: LR 250 is adopted. Before we go on to the next item the Chair would like to recognize a group of women from the Miller Park Presbyterian Church, members of Senator Walt Duda's District. They are under the south balcony. Would the Miller Park Presbyterian Church members stand up and be recognized. Ladies, welcome to your Unicameral. Well now, Mr. Clerk, do you have some matters to read in yet or are you ready for agenda item #6?

CLERK: One item, Mr. President, new A bill, LB 863A by Senator Landis. (Read title.)

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LB 480, 571, 602, 609A, 688,
787, 799, 835, 854, 854A, 868, 909

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: Prayer this morning by the Reverend John Ross,
Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Seward, Nebraska.

REVEREND JOHN ROSS: Prayer offered.

PRESIDENT: Roll call. Record the presence, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: There is a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Quorum being present, are there any corrections
to the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Journal will stand as published. Any
messages, reports or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 249 and 250 are ready for your
signature.

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable
of transacting business, I propose to sign and I do sign
LR 249 and LR 250.

CLERK: Mr. President, your committee on Enrollment and
Review respectfully reports they have carefully examined
and reviewed LB 854 and recommend that same be placed on
Select File with E & R amendments; 854A Select File with
E & R amendments; 909; 480; 835; 688; 799; 868; 602 and
787, all placed on Select File, Mr. President. (Pages 1227-1280.)

Mr. President, I have a new resolution, LR 256 offered
by Senator Nichol and many of the members. (Read LR 256
as found on pages 1280 through 1283 of the Journal.)
That will be laid over, Mr. President.

Mr. President, new A bill, LB 609A offered by Senator Marsh.
(Read title for the first time.)

Mr. President, I have a report from the Buildings and
Grounds Commission on proposed lease renewal for the
Department of Correctional Services, and the Nebraska State
Highway Commission files their quarterly report.

PRESIDENT: We are ready then to immediately go to Final
Reading, agenda item #4 commencing with LB 571. Would the
Sergeant at Arms secure the Chamber and make sure that all
members are at their desks, and all other unauthorized