

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Floor Debate
April 02, 2019

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SCHEER: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the fifty-first day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain today is Senator Williams. Would you please rise.

WILLIAMS: (Prayer offered.)

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Williams. I call to order the fifty-first day of the One Hundred Sixth Legislature, First Session. Senators, would you please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Any corrections for the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections.

SCHEER: Are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Just one item, Mr. President. The Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Senator Halloran, reports LB657 to General File with committee amendments attached. That's all that I have.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The first item. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and here do sign LR49, LR50, LR51, LR52, LR53, LR54, LR55, LR56, and LR58. Mr. Clerk, first item.

CLERK: Mr. President, confirmation reports: the first by the Education Committee involves three appointments to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, as Chair, you're welcome to open.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. These appointments are to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, NETC, commonly known as NET. NETC was established in 1963 for the Educational Television Act. The purpose of the commissions are to promote and establish NET facilities, provide NET programs, and operate educational and public radio and

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TV networks. This is an 11-member commission and the appointed members serve a term of four years. We have three appointments: Greg Adams is appointed for the first time as the community college representative on the commission. Mr. Adams currently is the Executive Director of the Nebraska Community College Association, and prior to that was a state senator and Speaker of the Legislature. He was also a teacher for many years at the York Public Schools. Dr. Paul Turman is appointed for the first time as a state college representative on the commission and recently was selected as Chancellor of the Nebraska State College System in January of this year. Dr. Turman received his Ph.D from UNL and was most recently the system vice president for academic affairs for the Board of Regents in South Dakota. Third and finally, Patricia Kircher is a reappointment and represents one of six members of the general public representing the Second Congressional District. This would be her third term on the commission. Ms. Kircher is originally from New York and has experience in sales and marketing. She has volunteered for several organizations and also is very involved in the Millard Public School community. The Education Committee advanced these nominations from committee with a vote of seven ayes and one absent. I would appreciate a green vote on the Governor's appointments. They are good people who have volunteered their time to the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Going to discussion, Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. Would Senator Groene yield to some questions?

SCHEER: Senator Groene, would you please yield?

GROENE: Yes.

WAYNE: Senator Groene, what vetting process does your committee use to vet these individual appointments?

GROENE: The Legislature relies on the Governor's staff to vet them and then to decide who those appointments are. We confirm them. It's a process that if something comes up in between, nothing did. These are very good people and they deserve the courtesy to be affirmed. Thank you.

WAYNE: So do you-- is it safe to say that you don't check social media, you don't Google to see if there's anything out there this body should be aware of before voting on?

GROENE: No. I rely on the committee to bring any-- of the members if they have a concern. And my staff and I rely on the public, the second house. We have proponents, opponents, and

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neutral testimony on the confirmations. If anybody has a concern, and by the way, nobody opposed these appointments. Thank you.

WAYNE: Do you know why they're asking for budget increases? Was that discussed at all?

GROENE: No.

WAYNE: Was there any conversation about future programming and what each individual person wants to do as it relates to the future of NET TV and NET radio?

GROENE: I think there was consensus the commission does a very good job at present.

WAYNE: So do you feel that because the Governor appoints and has a vetting process we should abstain from our rules and regs that say that we should consent or at least confirm these individuals and not do any independent research ourselves?

GROENE: I assume we got 49 independent senators and 8 members of the committee. I assume they do research on legislation before they vote yes or no or for appointments. I trust their abilities.

WAYNE: So if someone did have a Facebook post or something that would be somewhat deemed inappropriate, would you vote against them or would you pull their name? How would this committee work? How would you go back and vet them more?

GROENE: Never had to do it. Never had the Clerk's Office explain to me that anybody has had to do it in the past. And I'm not going to answer questions on suppositions and maybes and personal opinion in what's inappropriate.

WAYNE: That's not what I'm asking. I'm asking how would your committee handle if-- how would you handle if something came out on the floor today that would cause some concern about any individual appointment?

GROENE: I would let the body debate it.

WAYNE: You would let the body debate it, but you don't feel as a committee Chair that you have any obligation to make sure that the person before this body is vetted?

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GROENE: I am not going to prejudge somebody until it's debated and until I see the evidence.

WAYNE: And you have already stated, just for the record, I was just trying make sure I understand this, that it is not your role as a committee to vet these individuals?

GROENE: The vetting has been done by the Governor.

WAYNE: So you just are voting yes because the Governor told you to vote yes.

GROENE: Unless something comes up in testimony. We have a good system. As I said, anybody can come into the hearing and be an opponent, proponent or neutral. We rely on that system.

WAYNE: Okay, I want to talk a little bit more about the Education Telecommunication System itself. What is your understanding of the Nebraska Education Telecommunication Commission?

GROENE: That it oversees Nebraska's educational television network.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: What would you like to see in the future as it relates to this Nebraska educational telecommunication programming and what they do? What would you like to see going forward?

GROENE: I think they are leaders nationally in that and I trust their judgment. They are nationally known as the leaders in public education through telecommunications.

WAYNE: Do you think rural Nebraska needs more access to this information?

GROENE: We are very well covered.

WAYNE: So they don't need any more access to this information?

GROENE: They're very well covered.

WAYNE: Okay. Do you think there needs to be any different or new programming? I want to get your opinion on the future of this commission.

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GROENE: I think they're doing a fine job.

WAYNE: And would you be okay if we split this vote into each three votes instead of having them all as one if I want to divide the question?

SCHEER: Time, Senators.

GROENE: If you want to waste time--

SCHEER: Time, Senators. Thank you Senator Wayne and Senator Groene. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you. Will Senator Groene yield to some questions?

SCHEER: Senator Groene, will you continue to yield, please?

GROENE: Yes.

WAYNE: So would you be okay with calling-- dividing the question and voting on these individually?

GROENE: No, because we have work to do. I'll vote against it. You can do it. That's your right to do that, but personally I will vote no.

WAYNE: So when the Governor puts a slate together, we should just vote it through without voting on them individually and vetting them individually, correct?

GROENE: It's done all the time on this floor.

WAYNE: Do you think that's right?

GROENE: If they are good candidate.

WAYNE: But you only know if they're a good candidate because the Governor told you so, not because you independently verified.

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GROENE: Don't put words in my mouth.

WAYNE: I'm asking you.

GROENE: No answer.

WAYNE: Did you answer me--

GROENE: It's a redundant question, I've already answered it, Senator Wayne. No more. This isn't a courtroom.

WAYNE: So we-- I'm just having a dialogue, I can ask somebody else of your committee?

GROENE: Would you ask somebody else on the committee and find out what their vetting process was because I've told you mine.

WAYNE: Okay, but you're the Chair and so what comes out of this should be-- just like when we write a bill, if the bill is poorly written they look to the Chair to [INAUDIBLE] let a bill that's poorly written out of a committee. So you're the Chair of this committee.

GROENE: And I think we did an excellent job.

WAYNE: But you didn't tell me what the vetting process looked like. You didn't tell me--

GROENE: I didn't tell you about people can come in, the public can come in as proponents, opponents, or neutral. Did I not say that? That is called the vetting process.

WAYNE: But you didn't-- so anybody, your staff, you didn't have them look and see if there was anything on social media or anything like that, we just took the Governor for his word?

GROENE: My staff jokingly said that they would do it, and they never referred back to me that they found anything, because of what happened in another committee.

WAYNE: OK. So I will, if somebody else is in the queue, I will divide the question and I will see-- I'll make that motion to divide the question. I think it's important that we vote on individuals individually when they come before the-- from this body, and we, if there is a

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conversation we should discuss it. Like I would like to know a little bit more about Patricia's role on the State Fair Board and I know the State Fair Board has had its ups and downs, and I would like to know how they handle that before we put them on another commission. I think that's a fair question, and I think from what I'm hearing you don't have an answer because that wasn't asked in a committee, and that wasn't vetted. So with that, I hope somebody else is in the queue so I can file this motion to divide the question and we can vote on these individuals individually. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne and Senator Groene. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, anybody can ask for a division of the question, and it doesn't have to be a motion. If the question can be divided, in other words, the way that it is to be divided each of the divisions can stand alone the question will be divided. There is no vote on whether or not the question will be divided. I would like to make a few comments while that issue gets worked out. We're into all-day sessions now. It can be part two, Roman numeral II. I had stated while certain so-called conservatives talked until the time ran out on bills that they were showing me the rules according to which we will conduct the session. I've repeated over and over that all I need to do is be made aware of what the rules are, and I will play by those rules. So I expect that there will be bills which I ordinarily wouldn't have that much interest in that will require some measure of discussion and debate. That is necessary because of the rule that was set by the majority in the first part of the session. We're going to see now whether those who are dictated to by the Governor are going to continue following his lead, and if he will bail them out and show the Legislature how to get out of the morass that his leadership has put it in. He's not going to do that because his will has been worked so far. But there are some bills that those who spoke long and windily about earlier will be interested in, for example, so-called property tax relief. I say so-called because there's so much confusion in the Revenue Committee that I'm not sure what is going to come out on the floor. I receive correspondence from various groups which could be referred to as interest groups, such as businesspersons, landowners, homeowners, and others who could fit under the rubric of property taxpayer. You will see during this phase of the session that my voice will be very moderated, very calm, because now you're in my territory. You have given me the second half of the session. New people don't know what that means. Older ones who have been here think that because I'm a year older than I was last year, I will forget how to do what it is that I've done during the time I've been in the Legislature. I can discuss any issue that comes before us, whether it's a confirmation, whether it's a bill, whether it's a motion, whether it's an amendment, makes no difference. I've also emphasized that when I come here for a short session, which is 60 days, I'm prepared to talk those 60 days about whatever is discussed, but something will be discussed and I'll be party to those in which I have an interest. During the 90-day session, which

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is where we are now, there are things that will be discussed, and since I'm going to be involved in--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --the discussions I will discuss things that I choose to discuss, and we are going to take time on all of the issues that come before us. I am able to do that alone. And I'm not saying that I will discuss every issue that comes up for the three opportunities that I have. I'm not saying that I won't do that. I'm not saying that I will have motions and amendments to offer on bills and amendments to amendments. But I'm not saying that I won't do that. I believe, brothers and sisters, that when the Chair says one minute we ought to start winding down. I heard those words so I will stop and turn my light on again. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Yes, I would like to divide the question.

SCHEER: It's the ruling of the Chair that there are three independent individuals and easily dividable, so it is granted. They are now in three individual confirmation reports.

WAYNE: And do I get to keep talking or not?

SCHEER: Yes, you may [INAUDIBLE].

WAYNE: So I won't take up the full time. In no way am I trying to take this three hours and make an educational report become 33, I don't even know if that's possible. But I do-- this is not part of my strategy. I told what my strategy was last week, what bills I was attacking and what bills were going to have extended debate on. This is not one of them. But as we get later down through these confirmations, there is somebody that we need to talk about. We need to have a great deal of this conversation about because of what I've seen. And so I thought I would start early and show my hand and give people information that-- we're going to have some problems with one of these individuals on this slate and it's going to be an extended conversation and that may go all the way til noon if it means, but I wanted to be clear that I am going to read every bill that comes before this committee, particularly the ones that I have identified, and we're going to spend extended debate on them. This is not one of them, so there won't be an extended debate on it, but there will be a close reading, and one of them-- of these reports before us today has significant issues, in my opinion, and why I can't support one of them. And that will be raised,

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and we'll see if that lives or fails on this floor. With that I yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, 3:20.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, Mr. Chairman; and to the chaplain of the day, Senator Williams, who had some very fine words that he uttered. But whenever people get up there to pray, they utter fine words. He prayed to one in whom he believes. I believe that Senator Williams believes in the one he says he believes in. That does not mean that I believe in the one he says he believes in. Each one of us is an individual. Each of us has distinctive DNA. We all are identifiable by our fingerprints, which from the information we've been given are not duplicated by anybody else. So we each will have distinguishing characteristics that will separate us from every other human being. Now, when you get into philosophy, you talk about things that are. That's the existential world. You talk about things that are theoretical or perhaps may exist. The fact that you do not know based on experience or observation that they exist does not mean they do not exist. It could simply mean that your knowledge is limited. I probably am the only person in the universe. And if there are other universes in those universes, I don't know whether there can be more than one universe. I don't know if there is a boundary around this universe of which we are a part as dwellers on the planet earth, which is a part of the solar system, which in turn is a part of a universe, whether there's just one universe without boundaries. In other words, infinite. There is no beginning, no end.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: There can-- since there are no boundaries there can be no center. There can be no out post. Everything is what it is. Everything is where it is. And when it comes to motion, no object has motion with reference to itself. Motion exists only in relationship to some other object, either they are close to each other, they are far from each other. If they move closer, that movement is described as motion. If they go away from each other, that movement is described as motion. One is receding, and I'm not going to tell you what the other one is. You need to have some things not given to you so that life will have that spice which makes life worth living. If every second of every minute of every hour of every day of every week of every month--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne and Senator Chambers. (Doctor of the day introduced.) As previously noted, we have broken the confirmation into three separate hearings. The first one is-- that we shall take up is Greg Adams. So the discussion at this point is in regards to Greg Adams. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, we are having so much fun this morning already. There's an expression I've heard, which I have never applied to myself because I did not know from experience the meaning of it. That expression is "happy as a clam." Now, I don't know why in the world a clam would be happy. I don't know how in the world any human being can determine the different moods of a clam. I have yet to read anything by any human being based on a period of time that that human being spent with a clam to observe that clam in different circumstances and by giving to the clam, projecting on the clam, emotions that human beings when they behave a certain way in a set of circumstances, the human being who is having this relationship with a clam concluded therefrom that this clam in these circumstances behaves in the way that I would behave were I a clam. Or if clams react to circumstances in the way that a human being reacts. Therefore, this clam is happy. That person then did not want to seem foolish that he had so much time on his hands and so little to do that he would spend it fellowshiping with a clam. So in one of his soirees-- well, let me keep it simple. We're legislators. We don't have to read literature. We don't have to understand literature. We don't even have to be able to read. We can be totally illiterate. We don't have to know how to write. That causes me to digress from my dissertation on the happiness of a clam, which I am experiencing at this point. There was a movie in which Ossie Davis, his name is spelled O-s-s-i-e, played a slave to this white guy. And this white guy was taking him across the country. And for those who know any history, no matter where a slave set foot in the land of the free and the home of the brave he was a slave, and he had no rights which any white man was bound to respect, and that was pronounced by Roman Catholic Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Roger B. Taney. A Roman Catholic said that. He was familiar with the Catholic doctrines, the notion of human dignity. God, that the Catholics believed in, the Catholic god created everybody. The Catholic god imbued everybody with a soul. That soul, according to what the Catholic god dictates, should not be defiled in any way by any person, even the possessor of that soul which the Catholic god says exists. And you know that because the Catholic fathers of the church told you that. Thomas Aquinas was one of them. These men were given highfalutin, high-sounding names. Thomas Aquinas was referred to as the angelic doctor, the seraphic doctor because he could string words together and do things with Latin which few others could do.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: So when Ossie Davis was a slave, and would always be a slave, based on what the Roman Catholic Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court said-- I heard the words, "one minute." I'll stop and turn on my light. Thank you, Mr. President.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you're next in the queue. You're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I have been given inspiration. It's streaming to me now. Clams exist! Clams exist and clams communicate with human beings, and clams know when they're being discussed because a clam just sent a message to me, happy as a clam at high tide. How many of you all knew that? See, I brought you some information about the clams. I wouldn't know a clam if I saw one. People talk about having clammy hands. I suspect that clams don't have hands, but they might. But anyway, back to Ossie Davis; I was talking about how we don't have to know how to read or write. White people didn't have to know how to read or write during the period after slavery, but black people did. And white people just being white were allowed to vote. We would have to write certain provisions of the constitution. We would have to be able to tell without having had a chance to study it how many windowpanes there are in the courthouse. That's what white people did to us in the land of the free and the home of the brave under that rag. That's what was happening to us. You can worship the flag. It means something to you because it puts you in a position of the slaveholder. Although I was on the same plantation, the flag flew over me like it flew over you, but I did not see it the way you saw it. The mere fact that we occupy the same terrain did not mean that we viewed it the same way. For you who have never been a slave or had ancestors who were slaves, you have no concept of what it means to be treated like an object: a cow, a pig or a chicken; and in fact, have less rights, fewer rights than a cow, a pig or a chicken. And they think I ought to praise that rag. They must be out of their mind or think I'm out of mine. And I'll say as I've said before, when you can get Jews to praise the swastika, you'll get me to praise that, but actually you won't. Those will be some Jews who have lost their mind. And I will not follow somebody who has walked into insanity-- in to insanity. But Ossie Davis had had as much as we could take, and he told this white man, who the constitution and the Catholic Chief Justice said was his master; you can't even write your name, and you wouldn't recognize it if somebody wrote it for you. And the white man rising up in his majestic indignation as a member of the master race: I might can't write my name, and I can't recognize it when it's written for me, but I can take this whip. I can take this cow hide and I can whoop every strip of flesh off your back. And Ossie Davis looked at him, he said: Master, that you may do. But after you've done it, you still cannot write your name and would not recognize it if somebody wrote it for you. And that's what I say. White people have had it easy. Clams, as far as I know, have never been enslaved. So, maybe I need to learn something about pure happiness from a clam, which has never been enslaved and never has enslaved. Because whatever happiness is to a clam at high tide, it is not diluted or polluted by the concept of slavery.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Of course the clam is preyed upon by human beings who must prey upon everything they come in contact with it. Kill it for the love of killing. Kill it so you can put its

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hide on a door. Kill it so you can put its head on a wall. And you are the master race? You are the master race? You're fortunate that I don't use the language of your President because he used the BS word, and he used it, and those white-racists applauded and cheered him. Suppose I would use the BS word here. Would you all applaud me as your President was applauded? Would you be outraged at me while you're not outraged at your President? If I referred to America as a "S-hole" nation as he referred to Africa and Haiti, would you be offended at that, because I said it when your white President said it, and I'm not supposed to be offended because you're not --

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized.

KOLTERMAN: Good morning, colleagues. I rise in support of the confirmation of Greg Adams to the education position that he's seeking. Greg Adams has served this Legislature well for eight years. Prior to that he served as a wonderful teacher in the York Public Schools. And better than that, he comes from District 24. I'd like to see that we could get this approved today, move forward. Appreciate your support for Greg Adams. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Senator Howard, you're recognized.

HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President; good morning, colleagues. I would echo Senator Kolterman's comments. I had the privilege of serving here for two years with Speaker Adams, and he was a wonderful Speaker, especially when I was a first-year senator. He would bring all the first-year senators in and have lunch with us and ask us about how things were going. And then he was really good about just checking in and making sure that we understood the process and we understood what was happening on the floor. He was a really wonderful Speaker and a very capable colleague. And I would certainly urge his adoption and the adoption of his confirmation this morning. I would also note he was-- he's been-- he was sort of-- he was the Speaker who followed Mike Flood, and he really carried on a lot of those important traditions that Mike Flood had put in place. I think one of the challenges of being Speaker, a leader in the body is ensuring that there's some stability in this Legislature, and so making sure that essentially the trains run on time. And he was a wonderful mentor and a wonderful Speaker in this body, and so I would urge his confirmation today. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator McCollister, you're recognized. There are two-- there is still one in the queue, and she has not spoken. Senator McCollister, we've only been

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talking for about 20 minutes on this, so I would say that we have not had full and fair debate on this at this point. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise in support of Greg Adams. I've had the privilege of working with him in his capacity of representing the community colleges in the state, and he has been of significant support to me in my legislation to make sure that we have safe campuses in the state of Nebraska. And considering that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I think it's important to bring that up and highlight the significance and the contribution Mr. Adams has made to making our campuses, both community colleges in state and university across the state, safe for all students. Thank you, Mr. President-- Speaker.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Seeing no one else wishing to speak on this portion, Senator Groene you're welcome to close on Senator Adam's confirmation. He waives the closing. The question before us is approval-- confirmation of Greg Adams. Those in favor please vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report with respect to Greg Adams.

SCHEER: The report is adopted. Moving to the second of the divided question, is the question in regards to Patricia Kircher. That confirmation is now open for discussion. Seeing none, Senator Groene, you're welcome to close-- excuse me, Senator Chambers, your light is on-- you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, think of that rhyme called the Visit from St. Nicholas. It was not the night before Christmas, but that is the beginning, and it starts with-- I'm not sure 'twas is a contraction. I suppose it is, because two words are put together, but the apostrophe comes before the first one, and then its second letter is added to the second word, and we get 'twas. 'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care in hope that St. Nicholas soon would be there. Ma in her kerchief and I in my cap had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap. That's what I was wanting to get to-- a long winter's nap. This is not going to be winter, and it may be long, and some of you may be napping. Had just settled our brains for a long winter nap when out on the lawn there rose such a clatter, I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutter, threw open the sash. The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow gave a luster of midday-- midday is noon. The moon was so bright at night it made it look like daytime. A luster of midday to objects below, when what to my wandering eye should appear but a sleigh full of toys and eight tiny reindeer with a little old driver so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. Now, that's something that we all were told about when we were younger. I

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said all of that to put a long winter's nap into the context of my discussions today and however many days I choose to do so. And I assure you I will not run out of things to say. I'm fascinated by everything. I know everybody is aware of this. Twenty-six letters in the English alphabet, z-y-x-w-v-u-t-s-r-q-p-o-n-m-l-k-j-i-h-g-f-e-d-c-b-a, 26. Yet all of the words in all of the books written in English except where they interpolate words and expressions and phrases from other languages were birthed from those 26 letters. The numbers of combinations may be verging on the intimate. I said intimate. Who caught it? If I had written it you'd know I meant infinite. But I want the record to be clear, so I can find words, appropriate words, that are relevant to anything that we discuss here today, tomorrow, the next day, and maybe that's what that guy they call The Bard had in mind when he said tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and tomorrow. He went on for-- I did some research, 3,000 times, but the editor said: "Shake" that will not work. We've got to spear some of those and shorten this. So we'll let you get away with tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow because things come in threes-- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, those three. The Three Musketeers written by a black Frenchman. What is a musketeer? First of all, what is a musket? Well, if you know what a musket is, a musketeer is one who uses a musket. And there were three musketeers, but there's nothing that said there were only three muskets, so somebody else has a sequel which needs to be written. But there was somebody else who hung out with the three musketeers--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: His name was d'Artagnan.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: You said time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you are next in the queue.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I was streamed some additional information by a member of the clam clan. And they spelled theirs c-l-a-n, Senator Lowe, not k-l-a-n as the white Christian Americans do, the white Christian knights of the Ku Klux Klan and it's not Klu Klux Klan. They didn't know how to be alliterative all the way through, so they left the "l" off the first name. It's Ku Klux Klan. But the expression was: Who clucks like a clan? And that was how they usually met. When they came together, Senator Lowe, they would call each other together by clucking like a chicken--bok, bok, bok, bok, bok, buckawk, bok, bok, bok bok. When they heard that the Klansmen came flowing and fleeing from every direction. There was to be a meeting. We are going to burn a black church. We are going to rape some black women, and we're going to hang some black children. That's what we live for. Thank God for Jesus. And they flew that rag. That's what those wondrous and wonderful American activities were and it was under the egis of what I refer to as the rag, but the thing you all worship. I'm going to digress. But first I got to give you what the clam told me: why a clam is so happy at high tide. When people go hunting for clams, unoffending clams minding their own business in clam land, they do it when the water is low so they can catch them. So when the tide is high, as Blondie sang in that song: [SINGING] The tide is high and-- you heard that song, Senator Lowe, and you might even know it. But when the tide was high, the clams had a greater degree of safety. So happy as a clam at high tide is something that you now know in its entirety. You understand the origin of it, and you understand the rational for that clam's happiness. When the Legislature meets, what does it meet for? It should meet to do the things that are beneficial to the people who are not in a position to do those things for themselves. The power of the government should be bent toward making life better for everybody. But that's not the way it goes in this Legislature. The Governor speaks and the senators hop to. How can it be that there were 37 senators who had said they would go a certain way? Then the Governor sent, not-- he didn't come himself, sent his flunkies out there and ordered you all to get on out there and told you how you better not vote, and you succumbed. You succumbed. That's why I call it your Legislature. That's the way you all operate. Then after you've done your dirt, you want to stand up here and talk about collegiality, don't deal with personalities. You can deal with my personality all you want to.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Somebody told me I missed it when Senator Groene referred to me as the son of perdition. Well, I'd rather be a son of perdition than a son-of-a-you-know-what. So if that's the game they want to play, I know how to play that, but I just leave a blank and you can put anything there you want to. I'd rather be a son of a-- a son of perdition than a son of Christianity. I can say that. Christians are the ones who use the foul language. Marriage is supposed to be, based on the Christians, between one man and one woman. I don't know if that's true, because when Ol' Paul the Imposter, whom you all call the Apostle was writing, he said a Bishop should be the husband of one wife. To specify one must mean that other men had more than one wife.

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But if you're a Bishop, you should restrict yourself to one. Who would deny that Paul is a Christian? Nobody. There are so many things that went on that--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --that you all have no notion of. You say time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Was that my third time?

SCHEER: No, that was your second. And you're recognized, Senator Chambers, and this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I assure you all that I have things not only to say on these bills, but I have amendments I'm going to offer to these bills. This is my legislature. This room was named after my family, the Chambers. The Legislative Chambers. Named after me, after mine. But it was not a name that would be mine had not my forebears been snatched up and brought to this country in slave trafficking, human trafficking, sex trafficking, child abuse and molestation. If these priests during these enlightened times will rape little boys, what do you think those white leaders of yours were doing to little black children? Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, all of them slave holders, writing those fine words. And as dumb as you all are, you think that they were talking about all people when they put in the Declaration of Independence, all men are created equal. They were talking about Britishers who were on this side of the Atlantic being equal to Britishers on the other side of the Atlantic. They were not including the white riffraff. Ask the Irish how they were treated when they first came here. Is that the way you treat people who even look like you? I say! No, they not not say "I say" in the way you say it. But you understand what they mean. BeGosh and Begorrah. That's Lord have mercy. They've all got their own way of saying it. It's like the chicken crows, the lion roars. The clams just lie there clamming, being happy when the tide is high. Where am I going with what I'm saying? I'm going where I want to go. And where I lead you will follow. Some of you have bills, so you're going to have to hang around here today. And I have selected some bills, but unlike my young friend, Senator Wayne, my purview is broader and I have more in the way of responsibility. But I do believe in second chances. And I think the Legislature behaved in a very shameful way when the 37 people shrank or shrunk down to 28. Senator Geist, somebody told me that I even said a word or two of praise for her when she was talking about addiction and taking people to the drug court graduations and all these other things, and worked on an amendment. I even fell into that moment of good feeling. Then she didn't vote.

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Didn't vote. Actually I wasn't really surprised, but I was hopeful. So I'm going to give a second chance to those people who betrayed themselves.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: I'm going to give a second chance, a third chance, a fourth chance, a fifth chance, a sixth chance, a seventh chance, an eighth chance. I'm not going to tell you why I settled on the number eight, but that will do for a start. You're going to have that many chances to undo what you did. And if you undo it the first time around, then there's no need for the remaining seven. But the Governor has a way of cracking that whip, and it strikes deep, and you feel the pain for a long period of time. So it's going to take a while to alleviate that and try to restore you to a status of self-respect.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Personal dignity.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Groene, you're welcome to close on Patricia Kircher. He waives closing. The question before us is the adoption of the confirmation report for Patricia Kircher. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

SCHEER: Report is adopted. Moving to the third and final one from Education, that being Paul Turman; open for discussion. Seeing none, Senator Groene, you're welcome to close. He waives closing. The question before us is the adoption report regarding Paul Turman. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 38 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

SCHEER: Confirmation report is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on two appointees to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, you're welcomed to open on the confirmation report.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. These appointments are for the Board of Trustees Nebraska State Colleges. This board was established in the Nebraska Constitution in 1920. Its powers include but are not limited to the following: approve salary and benefits for all system employees; review instructional courses and programs offered by the college, both on and off campus; establish a system-wide tuition and fees annually; inspect the physical properties of the state college to assure they are maintained in good repair and are assessable; approves degrees awarded by colleges. This board has six voting members that are appointed to serve the term of six years. And as common practice in this body, I'm asking to-- the body to affirm both appointees with one vote. The first is John Chaney is reappointed for his second term of the board, residing in Omaha. He is retired CEO of Auburn State Bank. He is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and a graduate of the graduate school of banking at the University of Wisconsin. Robert Engles is a reappointment also. He was first appointed to fill a vacant seat in March, 2011, and reappointed in January, 2012. This while being-- this will be his second full term. He is a graduate of Peru State College; resides in Auburn and is the owner of Engles Agency where he is a real estate broker. The Education Committee advanced these nominations from committee with a vote of 7 ayes and 1 absent due to sickness. To add one more thing, the colleges they oversee is Chadron State, Wayne State, and Peru State. I ask for a green light on these appointments. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Going to floor discussion, Senator Wayne, you're recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to divide the question-- I request to divide the question on this one.

SCHEER: The question to divide the question is approved. These are two individuals and these lead--

WAYNE: And I won't spend time talking about John Chaney. I do have a little question about why Auburn has two people appointed, but that's a whole-- when we're talking the entire state. I think that would have been a good question to be asked that in a town of 2,500 or less that there's two people going to the State College Board, but that clearly wasn't asked by the Education Committee, because we don't ask those questions, I guess, in the Education Committee. But I do think that's concerning when you look at areas such as Valentine, Nebraska, and areas out in the

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Third District that has Chadron and you have Wayne State that there's not an equal representation on this state community college-- or state college. But I won't talk to much on this one. But I will spend some time on Robert, so thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Slama, you're recognized.

SLAMA: Would Senator Wayne care to yield to a question?

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, would you please yield?

WAYNE: Yes.

SLAMA: Senator Wayne, how many colleges make up our state college system?

WAYNE: Three, Peru, Chadron, and Wayne State.

SLAMA: Fantastic. And how many people are on this board?

WAYNE: I believe it was 7, or it might be 11, I got them confused. No, 11 is the NET, so it would be 7.

SLAMA: Seven. So, thank you, that's all. I just wanted to point out that it makes perfect sense, there is nothing problematic about having two people from southeast Nebraska, i.e. the area of Peru State College serving on this board, representing about one-third of the representation of this board when there's three colleges. Since we're on John Chaney, I'll speak on both Robert Engles and John Chaney. But first John Chaney, he has shown he's an outstanding public servant. As referenced, he's the former CEO of Auburn State Bank. He's committed to the future of our state college system as seen by that positive actions taken in his previous terms, and it's an honor to endorse his nomination to another term on this board. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Slama. Senator Williams, you're recognized.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President; and good morning, colleagues. I also stand in support of John Chaney for this position. I've had the good fortune to know John for nearly 30 years; watched his career in banking in Auburn, and his involvement with community activities there, but always his passion for education. And I have great confidence that he would continue serving

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very well in this position. So therefore, I strongly support his nomination. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, I would like to ask Senator Groene a question.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, would you please yield?

GROENE: Yes.

CHAMBERS: Senator Groene, I really don't know the answer to this is this, is this "Chaney" spelled the same way as Lon Chaney? I don't know if his was C-h-e-n-e-y.

GROENE: I know how Mr. Chaney's name is spelled, but I'm not old enough to remember Lon.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, I will accept this probably as the spelling of Lon Chaney's name, but it seemed like I may have seen it as C-h-e, but anyway, he played character roles in movies. He played the Wolfman. A lycantrape. He suffered from lycanthropy. That was what turned a person into a wolf. Even though a man is righteous and says his prayers at night, yet he may become a wolf when the wolfbane blooms at night. But that word "were" w-e-r-e was applied to other animals that could make human beings partake of their nature. There were werebears, wereleopards, and on and on. I don't know that an actual case of lycanthropy was ever recorded. But if it were, it would not have resulted in a person transforming into a wolf who walked upright in the way Lon Chaney did. But he had that facial expression that always made him look as if he were pleading. This is before he went through the transformation. They were able in the process of making movies about the Wolfman to portray this individual as a sympathetic character, and that's because Lon Chaney did not want to be a wolf man. He did not want to become a wolf man when the moon was full. And he deeply regretted the things that he did while in the guise of this wolf man. So if you want to give a person a pleading or sorrowful expression, then you make the eyebrows slope downward on the outer edges and a person looks like he or she is sad, sorrowful, or pleading. Lon Chaney even, in some of the movies, tried to explain to people why he needed to be locked in a cage. He did not want them to know what he was, but he wanted them to make that cage as strong as possible. You couldn't kill a wolf man with just anything. There was a certain type of metal that would take a wolf man out of his misery and out of this world. I cannot say when Lon Chaney was worse, when he was a 100 percent human being or when he was 50 percent human--

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SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --and 50 percent wolf. But nevertheless, he was the stuff from which horror movies were made. And he always would find a way to escape if somebody put him in a cage. And I won't tell you all of his adventures or describe in gory detail how he dispatched people. But speaking of him, when he changed into a wolf, brings me to a discussion of your President, who is losing his mind before your very eyes. He is stone-cold crazy, and he is taking this country on a path that will lead to destruction for a lot of people--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --other countries--

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Vargas, you're recognized. Senator Vargas, you're recognized.

VARGAS: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I just want to-- I'm going to specifically just talk about Mr. Chaney and support Mr. Chaney. I think he has been a very conscientious member of the state college system and he's a continued asset to our state. And I've had the pleasure of spending time with him these last couple years learning more about the state college system as he has been an advocate, and I think this is a really good appointment specifically for Mr. Chaney. And I look forward to having him on the state college board of trustees and will ask everybody's support for him as well. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Vargas. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wayne is a very competent attorney, and when he embarks upon a discussion he is informed in the premises as the legal phraseology goes. I even knew how many state colleges there are so that was a softball question. When you're going to trick somebody, then make it really tricky and the number of people on a board. A young black woman, a very beautiful young black woman, attended Peru State College, and she was murdered. That's what I think about when I think of Peru State College, and it replaced what I had been thinking. I'd given talks at Peru State College. And the reason I went to Peru State was because they were very racist in that town, and they put the word out that if I ever came there what would happen to me because the kind of talks I gave. And I went there and gave those kind of talks. And I stayed and answered questions. And I went out into what's called the commons area to answer questions and continue the discussion. White people are brave and bold when there are bunches of them or they think they're dealing with a coward. That takes me

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somewhat away from what I'd been talking about, but it touches on what I touched on about whether Lon Chaney was worse when he was half man-half wolf, or when he was 100 percent man, which led me into a discussion of your President who uses obscenities, vulgarisms, and profanity that I don't use. And his so-called base, the ignorant, openly racist white supremacist who are detrimental to the cause of true white supremacy they cheer, they go up in a shout. They might even have orgasms from the looks on their faces. Don't get upset. I'm talking like your President does now, but I don't use the foul words like the f-word that he would use and has used-- your President. He is stone crazy. Even some "Repelicans" are becoming fearful he's going to have-- I'm just going to make it \$10 billion, maybe \$8.9, somewhere in there, but what's a billion or two when you're dealing with a madman. Why do you need a large defense budget if large amounts of money can be taken out to build a wall? As those three young ladies sang: Ain't no mountain high enough. You could say: ain't no wall high enough. She sang: ain't no valley low enough. Ain't no wall deep enough. Ain't no river wide enough. Ain't no wall wide enough. A wall is stationary. Some people have mistaken the Maginot Line because it was a line for a wall, but it was a string of fortresses. But here's what happened: the enemy outflanked them. The enemy went around the Maginot Line. No wall has been built so high that people cannot get over it if they choose. It's not going to be sunk so deep that people cannot tunnel under it. There are tunnels right now that go under that line that separates America from Mexico into American cities. There are some tunnels that even have train tracks in them, and you think people cannot go under a wall?

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: You think they can't go around it? So he's shown his lunacy there, and he may be stopped. Now he's saying he's going to cut off foreign aid to three countries. And Congress whimperingly said, well, you can't do that. And he said, go to "h," I'll do what I want to do. More craziness, and white people are shaking in their boots afraid of him. Show the double standard, some woman said Joe Biden kissed her on the back of the head. Now, I don't understand why he would do that. But they're in a tizzy, and Trump boasted about grabbing women in their privates, boasted about it, and his base knew it, and the white fundamentalists know it, but they praise him and follow him, a crotch-grabber. And Joe Biden kissed a woman on the back of her head. Now, I would say that would indicate he's a little tetchd.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: You said time?

SCHEER: Yes, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: OK.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: That was my third time?

SCHEER: This is your third time.

CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you. But I will find many opportunities. We are going to come back this afternoon, too, so we'll just continue. On these kinds of motions, there's no opportunity to offer an amendment, and I wouldn't need to, because I will have enough opportunities. But if I can find a way to use this much time on something as innocuous as a confirmation, what is going to happen when we get into some of the bills? It will be an interesting ride for all of us. It will be fun for me. Somebody said revenge is sweet. That's why your god said: vengeance is mine, I will repay; not you. Revenge is so sweet, you will go overboard with it. Only a god is capable of properly, appropriately, and judiciously wreaking revenge. Once humans start, they can't stop. Senator Geist had suggested how once somebody starts on the drugs, they cannot really pull away. Others said the same thing. There are many things that cause human beings to become addicted. But nothing, in my mind, is so addictive as-- not the thirst for revenge, but being in a position to wreak revenge. What I will do may partake of some aspects of revenge. But that is not all that is involved. Payback is not the same thing as revenge. I handed out what I call an "Erniegram" this morning, as I hand one out every morning, that deals with what I consider to have been the most treacherous thing that had happened so far this session. Not the most treacherous that has ever happened. This Legislature's too petty to do things that rise to even that level, even when we're talking about treachery. Senator Arch's name gives you a chance for a lot of things: a person can be an archdeacon, an archdemon, an archfiend, an arch support in your shoes, or an arch that is a weight-bearing form of architecture. But the Arch did not serve the function of an arch the other day. The term "arch" was sullied, dragged through the mud, and it behooves me to try to salvage a shred, if not a modicum of dignity for the one who bears that name. You all say we shouldn't call people out by name. Things are done by people and people have names. When the FBI put out its top ten--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --wanted criminals, they don't just say a bank robber and lists the banks that were robbed, they not only give the name, they give a picture. You all are overly sensitive because you are embarrassed about some of the things you've done and you don't want attention called to it. If you all ran into the stuff that I do, as I say, you would run someplace and hide. If someone calls you a fool, what difference does that make? Are you a fool because somebody calls you a fool?

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Maybe so. If you behave like one after you are called that, then that person put the right label on you. I don't argue with fools because they don't know enough for me to argue with them. There are some people so ignorant of the subject that they want to argue about that their little opinions are outside the boundaries of rational discussion, so it's pointless to argue with them. Somebody may tell--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --Einstein-- thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Groene, you're welcome to close on the confirmation report. He waives closing. The question before us is the confirmation report from Education. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted that wished? Please record.

CLERK: 41 ayes 0 nays on adoption of the report.

SCHEER: Confirmation report is adopted. Moving to the second, Robert Engles, is now open for discussion. Mr. Clerk for a motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to the appointment of Mr. Engles, Senator Wayne would move to recommit that report back to the Education Committee for further consideration.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, you're welcome to open on your motion.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. I know this is unique, but I think sitting on Judiciary and sitting on General Affairs, I was not there on the Judiciary, but I read it. We have a duty to vet. If they come before this body, everything we vote on, there is a duty to vet. And in no way do I think Mr. Engles is racist or have problems or have issues, my problem is with the process. Questions were not asked that should have been asked. And here's why I say that. I sat in General Affairs, and I want to thank Chairman Briese for allowing the committee to vet and ask tough questions. We asked an individual about shares that he had that he wasn't even in control of, because we didn't want the appearance of undue influence in the Liquor Control Commission. Judiciary asked question and question about someone's undue influence or appearance that they will have on the crime commission. But yet in Education Committee we heard on this floor that we don't vet, we just send through. It's inconceivable to me that we don't sit down and have a conversation about somebody ahead of time. And what I mean by that, in this instance there were some Facebook posts that caused me some concerns. I'm not saying this individual is racist,

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I don't know him. But I think as a person who is appointed to a state college institution, we have to make sure all students feel welcomed. And when there's a question about why is there not uprisings regarding black-on-black crime, as there are in Ferguson, Missouri, that raises a question of whether he's culturally competent to understand the issues that affect many of the students who face or go to state college institutions. That question wasn't asked. If he shares a post dealing with immigration and border issues, I want to know are DACA students allowed underneath his eyes. Should they be welcomed in our state college institutions? When he shares posts about socialism and comparing it to the American Indian, I want to know will our students still feel comfortable? Now, most of his posts are about real estate. But I sat on two committees where we asked those tough questions. So this motion to recommit is not about the individual, because I think he will be able to answer all those questions. I think one of it was a genuine question of how can I put these two together regarding Ferguson and black-on-black crime, and I think he needs to be educated on those issues, because an unarmed black man being shot is not the same as gang violence, although the end result may be the same of murder. There's a completely different standard when it comes to a police officer who is here to preserve and protect us than somebody else. But that question should have been asked. Those questions of individuals who take political stands have to be asked in a non-political setting such as our state colleges. This is the only thing I think we can do. I researched this motion over the break because I don't want this body just to vote up or down, because, according to our rules, if they don't achieve 25 votes, that report and confirmation is dead. I don't know enough information to vote up or down. But I think there are enough political posts, at least the ones that I read, and I can give the dates of them, that raises concerns and questions, especially when an African-American young lady was murdered at Peru State and Peru State allowed that individual to stay almost in the same dorm as that person after sexual assault history and other things. I have to make sure that young African-Americans who are going to Chadron, who are going to Wayne State, who are going to Peru, are comfortable with their appointees and their board to feel welcomed. And I'm not there yet. And let me be clear again, because somebody will take this out of context, I am not calling this individual racist. Maybe he had some poor choices on hitting the share button. Maybe he had genuinely asking a question about the difference between a police shooting an individual and black-on-black crime. And again, I think there is education that has to happen there, and I would love to sit down and have that conversation. But that does raise a question of cultural competency. But just to get a hearing-- or a slate, come before a committee without vetting does this body an injustice. We're about to take a vote to recommit to get more information, which means they need to have a new public hearing and get more information so that we can have a full, fair debate on this individual. If you want to sidestep the rule and your constitutional duty to confirm-- to confirm somebody and just go with the Governor, then what's the point of having that in the rules? Let's just strike it out and we'll amend it to say whoever the Governor appoints, we just automatically affirm, regardless of what happens out there, and we'll still be able to abide by our constitution, but let's not waste time on this. We'll just put it as a legislative resolution below and they automatically are approved when they're

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non-controversial, we'll just make every appointment non-controversial. But those are questions that have to be asked. We have to vet better people who come before our committee, and it starts right now. It starts right now. So that's what this recommit motion is about. It's about making sure that when we say aye or nay and we are putting somebody on a public state college board that they are welcoming to all students. This is not the Board of Regents where you run a campaign and you can say whatever you want, and the populous takes the vote, and you win, and you get on. This is an appointment from our Governor that comes to this body as a second level of vetting, that's what I believe the reason it was in our constitution, and if you look at the history of why our state colleges were initially as teacher colleges, it was a vetting process for this body to double-check. And we have gave that up. We just washed it away. And I've sat here for two years, and I was a part of that. Somebody would come up, I would hear the introduction, oh, great person, let's vote on it, and we did. But because I've been inspired to dig a little more and dig a little deeper over these last couple of days, that's what I did. Staff's a little mad at me because they were helping me research. We normally don't do that on this stuff. We take their word. But we can't do that anymore. There's been two committees that I've heard about where somebody almost slid through, and without proper vetting. And we have to do a better job. So I'm not-- this is not a vote against this individual. This is a vote against the process. Because process matters. If you want exact dates of the posts, I can share. But all that's going to do is drag up more media and more media attention. I'm trying to be as coy and smart as we can, because this person did not jump into the political arena. He didn't put his name on a ballot to run for this office. I don't even know how they're selected. But when they come before our committees and when they come before this body, we have a duty to vet. We have a duty to make sure, in this particular instance, that everybody is welcomed. That's what this vote is about. It's about making sure everybody is welcomed at our state colleges. Because just as I could find it, so can our students. And, again, they're not the craziest posts in the world that I've seen, but neither is somebody who used to be a part of a liquor control industry who is now retired out of it, we still had a duty to ask questions, basic questions.

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: A question like do you believe students who are here for DACA should be welcome at Peru State, Chadron, and Wayne State. If he says yes, done. That post doesn't mean anything. On the record he supports it. He supports our students. Do you feel that African-American students are welcoming? Yes. Takes care of the issue. But without that, I can't support this person. And so easier than voting no or not voting, the easiest thing is for this body to get questions answered regarding some of the posts that we've seen around immigrants, African-American students, and the cultural competency between, quite honestly, an unarmed man being shot by a cop and black-on-black crime. All I want is some basic answers. Thank you, Mr. President.

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HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. (Visitors introduced.) Debate is now open on the motion to recommit to committee the confirmation report of Robert Engles. Senator Wayne, you are recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you. I would like to ask Senator Groene a question or two.

HILGERS: Senator Groene, would you yield to a question?

GROENE: Yes.

WAYNE: I'd like to have a bigger conversation about our education system. This is not to blowiate in any way, this is more just to have a conversation about what do you think as Education Chair of how our state colleges, our community colleges, and our university all interact and how that sits best-- that model sits best for Nebraska?

GROENE: Sir, I'm not going to debate you on education policy. There are plenty of times to do that with other bills related to the Coordinating Commission. I don't know if you know what the Coordinating Commission is, but what you just mentioned, we have created that commission to do exactly what you're talking about.

WAYNE: The Coordinating Commission, so on an education issue, we can't talk generally education?

GROENE: It's not germane to what we're doing here.

WAYNE: It's not germane. So pointing somebody to the state college commission-- state college board of trustees, we shouldn't have a conversation about their function and the role as it relates to education in Nebraska and how this individual sees that?

GROENE: You want to talk to me about this individual? That's what the matter at hand is. Let's talk.

WAYNE: So how does this person see the role of state colleges, community colleges, and university system working together in the state of Nebraska?

GROENE: His position is the state colleges, his role is not on the Coordinating Commission or the community college board or the university's regent. His duty is the state college system.

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WAYNE: So you don't know that answer?

GROENE: No. None of the members of the committee asked it.

WAYNE: So if you were appointing somebody to a board, wouldn't you want them to verify or at least say that they believe in the institution that they're being appointed to?

GROENE: This individual, I believe, graduated from Peru State College. He's a big fan of the state college system.

WAYNE: What about Wayne State? Was there any talk about maybe shifting our colleges around?

GROENE: We handled those questions talking to Greg Adams and a few others about the Wayne State and the individual that was also appointed that represents the college-- can't think of his name right now, the second appointment-- we asked plenty of questions about the relationship between the three colleges: how the money was distributed, how the three interacted. The committee did a good job asking those types of questions.

WAYNE: And I appreciate that. And the reason I want to have-- I'm not trying to be pugnacious, I'm just trying to have a conversation because, you know, I just recall like TIF, it was a constitutional amendment, but we were arguing about statutes and TIF, and so if we can have a broader conversation about the role of state colleges, I think it's-- it doesn't matter what bills is before us, if it touched on my topic, Senator Groene, you have taught me that we could talk about it. So I want to engage in this conversation. Now, if you're telling me on the mike, and this is a question, that we're only going to limit ourselves to the items before us for the rest of this session and you give me your word, I'll give you my word that's all we'll do.

GROENE: Am I still on the mike?

WAYNE: Yup.

GROENE: Ah, I believe in that last instance you talked about, we talked about one subject, it was tax increment financing. And here we're talking about the state college board.

WAYNE: Exactly. And I want to know the role of the state college board and how do you feel about that?

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GROENE: It's a great institution. All three colleges do a great job for rural Nebraska.

WAYNE: Do you think we still need the state colleges versus community colleges?

GROENE: I think we need all. We need as many educational avenues for a child that we can create.

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: Well, how does that interact with our property taxes, our education, particularly community colleges and state colleges?

GROENE: If I remember right, sir, on the debate we had on TIF, I was direct with my questions. If you would go do that, honor me with that same courtesy, I'll gladly answer your questions.

WAYNE: Direct-- well I get to answer the questions. I've seen you ask questions how you want to ask and cut people off. And so this is a good note of how to teach cleology [PHONETIC], as you always say, about being cordial and being like another state senator. So let's have that conversation. So does state colleges have any impact on our property tax system?

GROENE: No.

WAYNE: And do you think they should? Should they have their own taxing authority?

GROENE: No.

WAYNE: Why is that?

GROENE: Because the system works.

WAYNE: The system works exactly the way it is?

GROENE: Yes.

WAYNE: So we don't need to make any improvements to our state college education system?

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HILGERS: Time, Senators. Thank you, Senator Groene and Senator Wayne. Senator Chambers, you are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As that fellow used to say on "That Was the Week That Was", I believe, very interesting. It's easy for people to give it down here, but they can't take it. I give it. I can take it. But I will give it back. People can ask me anything they want to about anything they choose. And Senator Groene, for somebody who is up on the kind of issues that he is, has skin too thin to get involved in those kind of discussions because it will come back to haunt you. And then when you begin to talk about limiting the discussion to this or that, when on other issues you've ranged far afield and abroad because you wanted to run out the clock. Then it doesn't sound very becoming. But in the same way that senators don't have to know how to read, senators don't have to know how to write, senators don't have to be able to think, they don't have to understand logic, they don't even have to know how to spell the word "logic", they don't have to be consistent. But Senator Wayne has raised an interesting issue because it was one of the principles-- and I put that word in quotation marks-- invoked by a senator who had promised to vote for a bill, had spoken for the need of it, then sat on their hands and didn't vote. I'm going to read from an article that appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star March 28, and it was on a Thursday that the article appeared, so this event must have happened on a Wednesday. The two in the end-- neither of the two senators who worked with Hunt on fashioning that compromise amendment, Senator John Arch of La Vista and Lincoln Senator Suzanne Geist, gave her an affirmative vote. Neither one did. The two were present, not voting, on the cloture motion to stop the filibuster and allow a vote on the amendment and then the bill. Geist said she did not vote on the motion because she was, quote, frustrated with the process, unquote. She refused to comment further. Senator Wayne said that it's the process that is of concern to him. Now, maybe I'm the only one who read what Senator Geist said because I might be the only one who reads the newspaper, but that's what she told the media. Then she wouldn't say any more. She's something like Pilate who asked what is truth then walked out. She raised an issue, then refused to comment on it. Senator Wayne is willing and is demonstrating that he will discuss these issues in the broadest way. When we legislate, we do not limit what we say to the item in front of us. I'm going to show you all a picture that's going to become famous as the Mona Lisa. If you look at this sheet of paper, you will not see the picture. You know what the picture is that I put on this sheet of paper? I put on this sheet of paper a portrait of a microbe in its real size. And because the microbe is so small, you won't see the microbe's picture.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: But if you get a microscope, you will see something that would shock you. Here's the point that I'm making. If Senator Geist says something, it's all right. If Senator Wayne says something and makes it clear why he's asking the question, then people get very nervous, get

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very jumpy, and want to say: well, we don't do it that way, or such and such, and so and so. I've been here long enough to have heard it all numerous times. And when I see that somebody is unable to answer a question, I just let them go, because their inability or unwillingness to answer a question about the very subject of his or her committee, then that inability to answer and the unwillingness to just acknowledge I don't know the answer is commentary enough. But when you fly a false flag and somebody is about to pull down that Jolly Roger-- see, real pilots-- pirates, flew the Jolly Roger.

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Brewer, you are recognized.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. I guess I needed to respond to some of the comments from Senator Wayne on the committee process. And it may have been focused on the Education Committee, but the Government Committee may have had the first committee appointment that ran into problems. And so everyone understands that I probably am not the same Chair as others in how I treat people and deal with issues; there's probably a lot of people that are saying thank goodness. But when we had the appointment last year for the new superintendent of the State Patrol, I personally grilled him for one solid hour. So when we have individuals come before the committee, and I think everybody that's on a committee can safely say that's there's none of them that survive without me asking questions. And most recently it was on the appointment to the emergency response committee. That committee is unique in that if people don't understand-- the members of that are not focused on statewide major emergencies, like we just had with flooding. Now, they wear multiple hats, and so they may also be functioning in some capacity with other emergency services. That committee is primarily focused on what we call NBC: nuclear, biological, and chemical. To be qualified and to be a part of this committee and contribute, you better bring certain unique skills with you. And there's not very many people with those skills. So making sure they have them is first. And I will be the first to tell you that I have never looked at anyone's Facebook post. I don't look at their social posts. Maybe I should. For one, I don't have the time or the real desire to pry into other people's lives. What I'm going to do is look at what comes before me as a committee Chair, with all of their qualifications, I'm assuming there has been some screening when they give us a candidate. Now, that may be a luxury I don't take in the future, but the candidates we had were all more than qualified. It was after that fact, after we voted that it was brought to my attention that there were some posts that I personally did not, um, favor, and maybe that's what made me realize that I need to do a deeper dive. But the problem is, these are volunteers, they are not paid. If they come to us with these unique skills, like in this case with nuclear, biological, and chemical knowledge, and we have a zero-defect

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world where if they ever post anything that someone's offended by, I think we'll have a very small pool of folks to pick from. Now, had I known, I probably would have asked questions there, and I think some of the questions that Senator Wayne are asking are legitimate questions, because if you're going to be someone who is having oversight on our college system, then you probably need to ask certain questions if you're concerned about it. I guess the point is that if we make this a process that is so overbearing and so difficult that we have no one that wants to be a part of these committees, we are weaker for that process. And if we live in a world where anything you do that I'm offended by, I'm going to end--

HILGERS: One minute.

BREWER: --I'm going to end your opportunities to be a part of anything. We lose some of that First Amendment right, and I think we need to think that through. If there's a true problem there, then let's find it, and let's identify it and deal with it. But for my committee, if-- if the senators have an issue, their time to bring it up is there in that committee. And if not, then I think we-- we need to have a process that somehow we change before it ever goes through the committee. Because right now, I think we're going to eliminate good candidates for committee assignments if we have this zero-defect world. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Brewer. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing debate on the motion. Senator Wayne, you are recognized. Senator Wayne.

WAYNE: Oh, sorry. Thank you. Again, I just find this inconceivable that we don't have a vetting process. And where I'm at in this process is let me be-- OK, let me step back and be crystal clear again. This vote right here is not on the individual. I don't know this individual. I don't have enough information to vote up or down on this individual. My issue is: recently Nemaha County, Peru State, a jury of people from that county said Peru State was guilty in a wrongful death suit involving a African-American young lady. And a question not being asked about the safety of students after that so recent event boggles my mind. Boggles my mind! I just-- this is a question of process. This is not a question of-- and after-- I have no doubt in my mind when Senator Groene has a public hearing over noon on this issue, because so many people are going to agree process matters and vote green, that he is going to answer these questions so easily, that every student matters. We are taking actions to go back and redo our student handbook, and we are ensuring public safety is number one, and that, you know what, all students matter, no matter where they are, we want to make sure that there's equal access to all. But if I can't point to that in the transcript, if I can't see that question, and I see these other things out there, it's hard for me to go back to my community and just say, hey, we didn't vet; we just took the Governor's word for it and went ahead. Again, this is not a referendum on the individual. I believe from everybody I've talked to in that area, who we have political differences, but I respect them, think this person is a

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very good individual. I'm saying there has to be stuff on the record of how we vet people, that we have to address them. Because we can't have one standard in General Affairs, we can't have one standard in Judiciary, we can't have one standard in Urban Affairs, another standard in Education. That there has to be some core questions that are asked around the institution that they are being appointed to to overseeing. Such as: the future of that institution, what that individual would like to see in that institution. How about a question about how do you feel about students who come from Omaha, Lincoln, because these are mainly rural areas? What are you doing to work with colleges and community colleges? Just some basic, general questions on vetting. That is what this vote is about. This is about how we did the process. And this is an easy, quick fix. We vote it green, a day to lay over. They could have seven-day posting on a hearing. Next week they could have a hearing on this issue over lunch, come back the next day, sails right through. But at least we did a process which answered the community and the constituent questions that are before us in this body. This is one of our treasures. These institutions are our future and our building block. Chadron, when I went out there, and in fact, numerous students go out there that I know, one, they like forests, they like to-- when they want to do something around that area, they go out to that institution; some of them just play sports. Wayne State-- I can't count the number of times I had to go up there to pick up kids that I coached and that I mentored who are either playing sports, running track, or some of them just going to school because it's a great place to go.

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: Peru State, numerous kids from Omaha that I had to go down and pick up, watch basketball games that I coach-- I'm very familiar with these institutions. And that is why I'm asking this body to make sure that everybody we put on this board is-- goes through a minimum vetting process. But if we say, no, we're not going to recommit, that we're just going to rubber-stamp everybody, then I'm going to amend the rules to say we'll never vote on these again. What's the point? We'll just be unanimous, because there's no point. We don't vet, we don't have a conversation. I'm not saying let's go through everybody's social media and Facebook, but when the issue is raised, you need to figure out how to answer that question. And there's an issue raised. And it's unfortunate that it had to be raised on the floor because we didn't vet at the committee level. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Wayne, that was your second time on the mike. You have your close remaining. Senator Slama, you are recognized.

SLAMA: Thank you, Mr. President. As somebody from the area who knows Bob Engles personally and some of the things that have been referenced on the mike today with regards to Peru State, I thought it would be worthwhile for me to get up and share my take on it. So I'll be

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brief. The case of the murder of Ty Thomas, which occurred in Peru in 2010, which has been referenced a few times over. It's worth clarifying the judges ruled in 2015 and 2017 that Peru State College was not liable in Ty Thomas's death in that case. Now to refocus on the nominee himself as the individual, I understand there is extended debate today on the process. I would like to refocus on the individual here, Bob Engles. He is the former mayor of Auburn, a position he served in for eight years. Before that he was a member of the Auburn School Board for 12 years. This man is a committed public servant who served on the state college board of trustees since 2011, replacing Floyd Vrtiska. He was reappointed in 2012. And in my interactions with Mayor Engles, I have had no indication in his actions or his words that he would be anything but welcoming to all students. This is evidenced also in his service on the state college board of trustees. And I do believe he would be a great candidate for re-endorsement, and I encourage the committee to adopt the report. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Slama. Senator Chambers, you are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, white people need to open their eyes and realize that people who are black can tell white people what it means to be black. You can't tell me. I can tell you how you mistreat us, how you make assumptions and presumptions that somebody's all right because they've been all right with you. Look what old man Ricketts, Pete Ricketts' daddy, did, all those things he posted that shows he's a racist, he's anti-Muslim, so he's a religious bigot, a racist bigot, and his son wants to act like he's shocked because it's public. He knew about his father and what his father believed because he's just like his daddy. How about this guy that Ricketts put on his staff who was a white nationalist and made these postings and then when it became public then Ricketts said he's shocked. Well, that shows his inability to judge character. I didn't know about the things that Senator Wayne raised about this man. They are issues of concern to black people, not white people. Senator Slama is not going to be upset with somebody because they are a racist. She agrees with that stuff. So her endorsing somebody means nothing. And especially being appointed by a governor who himself appointed a white nationalist who would put these things out there for the world to see. Then they're going to tell me as a black man how I ought to say this guy is good because he's good to them? Well, they all feel the same way. Let me give you an example of how ignorant you all are. You all use the term black-on-black crime. Well, for you white people, let me explain something to you, talk to criminologists, talk to cops, talk to prosecutors, people commit crimes against the people they're around. If you have Jewish criminals, Jewish criminals commit more crimes against Jews than other people because they're around Jews. White people commit more crimes against white people than they do against anybody else. Why don't you talk about white-on-white crime? There are more white people in prison than black people. White people commit more crimes against white people than they do others. You don't talk about white-on-white crime. This white guy that Senator Wayne raised the question about for talking about black-on-black crime, why defend him? Let him go before the committee and explain what he meant.

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Senator Wayne is saying that those questions ought to be put during the committee. When people come before the Judiciary Committee, Senator Geist brought a bill, and she was so upset at my questioning, she got the members of the committee to apologize to her about the way I ask questions. She said I went after her like I didn't go after other people. She should have seen the way I went after the Chief Justice, a lawyer representing the Douglas County Attorney's Office, and the inquiry I'm going to make about him to the council for discipline. Then she says she got all the members of the committee to apologize to her about me. That's what she told me. And not one of those committee members came to me to tell me that they apologized to her for me and the way I went after her bill. She-- and I told her when she told me that, that she's making herself too important, that I say what I've got to say to whoever comes. Now, people have names. These brothers and sisters are the ones who apologize to Senator Geist who refused to vote on a bill that she said she'd vote on after she helped put together a compromise.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Based on Senator Geist: Senator Lathrop apologized to her about my conduct; Senator Pansing Brooks apologized to her; Senator Brandt apologized to her; Senator DeBoer apologized to her; Senator Morfeld apologized to her; Senator Slama apologized to her; and Senator Wayne apologized to her. That's what Senator Geist said. All the members of the Judiciary Committee apologized to her, because her feelings, I guess, were hurt. That's silly. And why didn't the committee members talk to me? And you know when I bring these things up, when it's appropriate, and the discussion devolves on the issue of how black people are mistreated and how insensitive white people are and the things white people do behind the back of black people, but nobody on that committee can say that I have mistreated or dealt harshly with any of them, because Senator--

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --Geist told me what she told me.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Groene, you are recognized.

GROENE: Thank you. I stand to correct and defend the Education Committee's actions. Senator Wayne is wrong. We never met over noon for ten minutes and confirmed these individuals. We had a hearing on our regular schedule. It was put out seven days in advance so people knew when the hearing was. They could come in to testify as an opponent-- opponent, or neutral on all these individuals. On these two individuals-- and Senator Wayne mentioned to correct the record why wasn't the safety of the school and the students addressed? Because I read to you what their mission statement is this Board of Trustees, Nebraska State College: approve salaries and

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benefits for all system employees; review instruction, courses, and programs offered by the college of both on and off campus; establish system-wide tuition and fees annually; inspect the physical properties of the state colleges to assure that they are maintained in good repair and good-- and are accessible; approve degrees awarded by the colleges. That is their mission statement; that is our directive as a committee to ask questions on. As far as student safety, there are a mirage of bills and statutes where we direct the administrations of colleges to protect the children. In fact, we've had three or four sexual abuse bills, sexual assault bills brought to our committee and we did vote out Senator Cavanaugh's LB534 to require public postsecondary education institution to conduct an annual sexual assault climate survey. This body does react to situations. I understand what this is all about. But when the accusations are made and falsehoods are attacking a committee, eight good people on a committee who work hard and voted all these applicants out unanimously, and these individuals that step forward for these boards, folks, to attack them for political reasons and to dig up old e-mails that I've seen the two e-mails on Mr. Engles and I see no hate or anger or prejudice in there. He's asking philosophical questions in a free society that we ought to be able to do. You can read in his deal his heartfelt concern for individuals of all races and violence and he's asking pertinent questions. There is no racism in here. And he doesn't like socialism. Neither do I. But I'm going to defend the character of this individual. He doesn't deserve this. He's stepping forward with no pay to sit on this board. And I'm going to defend my committee because somebody can't handle questions that are pertinent to their bill and doesn't like the discussion and then takes it-- vengeance and bullies the rest of us, I'm going to stand up against that, too, folks. I have thick skin, Senator Chambers. I've had bills killed by you and other people and we've gone toe to toe and you've yelled at me and I've yelled at you. That's being a human being. But this is getting petty, way beneath the body. And if somebody thinks that winning the bullying fight, let them win, 'cause I'm not going there. You can check my record. I have always discussed, Senator Chambers, the bill at hand. I've never gone off in to religion.

HILGERS: One minute.

GROENE: I've never gone off chasing after the wind. I've stuck to the issue. And I looked at the tape of the debate that has upset Senator Wayne and I was civil. I asked questions pertaining to the issue at hand. I accepted the answers and I firmly told the body where I stood on it. If he wants to continue this and attack good men like Bob Engles and drag the whole system down, fine. We do vet people, folks. They fill out a form about being a felon, if they have any conflicts. They have to disclose what their financial interests on for a nonpayment job, to be a public servant, and we're standing here "disgrading" them. I can't handle that. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Chambers, you are recognized and this is your third opportunity.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it doesn't bother Senator Groene 'cause he's white and this white man if he's got racist attitudes toward black people will not affect Senator Groene. In fact, Senator Groene has talked about religion. We had a discussion about what the thieves said to Jesus on the cross, and Senator Groene got it wrong. He doesn't remember things. But that's what happens with these young people. They've got so many things they're interested in that they forget. On the other hand, somebody as old as I am, closer to being 100 than I am to being 60, will remember things. Old people remember. What these young pups who think they're smart don't understand about old people is that we hear what we need to hear. Every closed eye is not asleep. And that's why we can call back and convict you and condemn you for things you said because you thought we were not listening or you weren't paying attention to what you said. You all have thin skin that is too thin. This is the Legislature. We talk about life and death literally. And I've been told, by the way, by other members of the Judiciary Committee, they did not apologize to Senator Geist for me. So she lied. She outright lied. She stood here and told me all the members of the Judiciary Committee apologized to her about what I said. And then I asked her, what did I say that's different from what I say to others? Well, she didn't want to go into it. And then she helps fashion a compromise and is supporting a bill, then she doesn't support it. She says because she's upset with the system. No, the Governor cracked the whip. That's what it is. I know what it is and I'll call it what it is and you all stop doing those things if you don't want to be called out on it. Stop portraying yourself as a "Holy Joe" and a "Holy Jane" if that's not what you are. Your works are going to characterize you, as far as I'm concerned. And I'm going to judge you by what you do, not what you say, because you all don't tell the truth. You know you don't tell the truth. And you know why you change your views? Because the Governor ordered you to do it. And he had his flunkies out there dragging you all outside this room and you went the way those flunkies told you you should do, even though it meant breaking faith with your colleague in here. The colleague you worked with, who in my opinion, weakened the original form of her bill trying to work with you all, then you all betrayed her. And the excuse is, well, I was upset with the system, with the process. That's nonsense. Maybe I ought to start using the kind of language that your President does because you cheer him. I mean the vulgarity, the obscenity, the profanity that has white people cheering, Christian white people. And you cannot understand me using the words of your language and I speak your language better than you do, by the way. I don't say "them" when it should be "those." I can show you transcripts. I didn't say them things was such and such. Them things? And if you want me to show you in the transcripts, I can show you. But I don't call you down on everything. That is a sign of a defective education. People who go to these little schools come away with defective education. People who go to big schools and don't pay attention, come away with a defective education. You manifest the quality and caliber of your education by the way you express yourself. And when you're here on this floor, we deal with language. We deal with words.

HILGERS: One minute.

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CHAMBERS: That's what we specialize in. Then we commit those words to paper. And I'm very much upset about the incompetent way that words are put together. And some bills in the past I've tried to help clean up, but I'm not going to do all of them. But you watch what happens the next few days. And I'm going to be a main character and a main actor when it comes to those things. And I've got some bills of mine that I've already drafted amendments to. And it's going to give Senator Lowe, I believe in second chances. It's going to give them eight opportunities to undo the damage that they did by breaking faith. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Senator Wayne, you are recognized to close on the motion.

WAYNE: We need to stop with them-- thank you, Mr. President-- we need to stop with the mendacity. We need to stop bloviating. The reality is, Senator Groene, I didn't say you had a noon confirmation hearing. I think this is part of the problem. Maybe we don't listen to people on the floor. What I said is this is a simple solution to fix. You have a noon confirmation hearing next week. You asked some questions about students feeling welcomed and those things that I asked. And by the end of next week, this is back on a vote and it flies through. But because we don't listen, we just had the whole record get muddled with nonsense, with mendacity. And the reality is, after this there is an end in sight, colleagues. The next after this, the next Business and Labor, I read through it, I'm comfortable. I'm actually withdrawing my motion on Senator Kolowski's bill. You guys will have an extended debate about, I'm pretty sure, LB243. Other than that, we got plenty of time 'til we get to Senator Friesen's bill we talk about some things. And that's just 'cause I think learner's permits shouldn't be able to text and drive. But other than that, this isn't all day session. But I am going to take time to figure some things out and talk about it. And to Senator Slama's point, this is not a referendum on the individual. In fact, I said I don't know him. I said I believe that he might have just hit the share button on some things he probably shouldn't have shared or made a mistake and can see now maybe why it was taken out of context. But let's just ask about it. We have a constitutional duty, Senator Slama, to advise and consent, particularly confirm on this particular one, and it's in our rules. And I think as a young aspiring attorney, you believe process matters too. So process matters. This is a process vote. This is not a bully tactic. This is not-- this is an extended debate about an issue and a process, which I think we should have. Now, I've seen bills die because of process, just last week. What I would hate to happen here is the motion to recommit fails and then you don't have 25 affirmation votes, because per our rules, then he's off. It's considered a no vote. It's done. And maybe you have 25 and maybe you want to roll the dice instead of just taking a week to make sure he can sail through. But we better hope that his private Facebook doesn't have anything. We better hope more things don't come out because everybody's warned. This is not a threat. It's a warning as Cardi B says. We have got to do better of how we vet. And I asked you on the first couple of people, Senator Groene, Chairman Groene, did you vet? And your answer was no. We get appointments from the Governor, people didn't show up. There were no supporters. There were

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no opponents. There were no neutrals, and we voted them out. You said on the mike you don't vet. And I'm saying when an issue arises, you have to deal with it. That is the nature of where we are in society, especially, especially when the Governor had somebody just get called out and had to fire him because there was some racist posts. We don't know everybody's background. I'm not spending time digging through everybody's background. But if I have to vote on them, I kind of want to know what they think. I kind of want to know how they operate on the board. 'Cause my vote sends a notion of trust for my community and me--

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: --saying we are--

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: --we are saying that this person should be on this board, to lead our three colleges. I'm saying we should hold up on that vote, have the committee ask some questions that are in the record to make sure we're all comfortable with this vote. And again, this vote may say you have 25 or more, but it also may show a divided legislature when it comes to this person being appointed. And the simple thing to do to get 48-0 or more is just to delay it for a week, recommit it and take care of it. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. The question is whether the motion to recommit to the Education Committee the confirmation report of Robert Engles should be adopted. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Request to place the house-- there has been a request to place the house under call. The question is shall the house go under call. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 21 ayes, 5 nays to place the house under call.

HILGERS: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Bolz, please check in. Senator Wayne, we're missing Senator Vargas. Would you like to proceed or wait? All members are accounted for. The question before the body is whether the motion to recommit to the Education Committee the confirmation report of Robert Engles should be adopted? All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Senator Wayne, would you accept call-in votes? Roll call vote in reverse order has been requested. Mr. Clerk.

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CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 17 ayes, 28 nays on the motion to recommit.

HILGERS: The motion is not adopted. Debate is now open on the adoption of the confirmation. I raise the call. Debate is now open on the adoption of the confirmation report. Senator Wayne, you are recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you. So specifically a quote that was shared was: if you want to ask about socialism, go talk to the American Indian. I don't know about you, but I find that kind of offensive. To compare black-on-black crime to Ferguson, I find that kind of offensive. Now, there's two things I can do right here. I didn't file a motion to reconsider. I'm not going to ask for time, but based on that vote count, I could take this to three hours and you'd have to show 33 and you can't get there. But I'm not going to do that. But when something comes up about process, when somebody allows these comments to go unchecked in my community, we are walking down a very dangerous path. We are walking down a very dangerous path and this is not bullying. This is about an individual who is willing to charge the mountain alone for his community. It's not really alone 'cause Senator Chambers is there, some other folks that I see around here who are supporting the idea of north Omaha being different in the next ten years. And it might have been a philosophical question, Senator Groene, about black-on-black crime versus Ferguson, which I must remind you a cop shooting an unarmed black man is nowhere comparable. But we don't know the answer to that philosophical question if he asked the question, and I don't think it necessarily was a question. But we're going to vote on it today. That's what this body says, we're going to vote. We're going to vote again saying that these comments don't matter, that we won't take time to vet. And I find that very disheartening that anybody appointed to a board can't answer a question about a quote that he shared and he believed regarding American Indians. And he used the word American Indians, not me. And it was an old Henry Ford quote. But he shared it, and I want to know if he really believes that or not. I want to know if he really believes that shooting an unarmed black man with his hands up is the same as black-on-black crime? I want to know that answer. But I won't get to know that answer. So we're going to vote on it. And if anybody in this body can conceivably say that shooting an unarmed black man-- a police officer shooting an unarmed black man is the same as black-on-black crime, even if it was a question, a philosophical debate, the fact that that wasn't asked sends the wrong message, at least in my school district and the kids in my community, sends the wrong message to the kids at Peru State, Chadron, and Wayne State, that the day of so much division among Black Lives Matter and MAGA and all these other things that a person puts that on a Facebook page and we don't take time to ask, we don't take time to ask. We can't delay a vote for a week. We can't delay a vote for a week for the young kids that I represent, many of you other represent who may have been pulled over, who may have that same fear, 'cause many of you don't get to have that conversation.

HILGERS: One minute.

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WAYNE: Now, I pushed my button 'cause I want to have a conversation about this. This is extended debate. And I'm going to wait to tell my story when I got pulled over with six kids in my car and we were at gun point-- six 6th graders in my car-- when we were at gun point. And then we had to have a conversation about how to interact with police. How many other legislators in your community have to have that conversation with young men about how to interact with police? It's safe to say most of us don't. But that statement means a lot to my community. And we won't get a chance to ask that question. And I believe he'll answer it and I believe he'll provide a great answer. But we won't get a chance to answer that. This isn't about TIF, Senator Groene.

HILGERS: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Chambers, you are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, two score and four years, Senator Wayne is going to learn why I do everything that I do the way I do it. He's the young generation. He's read where white people have changed, how far America has come. I've been here 82 years-- this is my 82nd year. I'll be 82 July 10. After July 10, I'll be in my 83rd year and I'll say I'm 83. I know white people don't change. This Legislature hasn't changed. They don't care about what happens to black people. And you can try to be nice, like Senator Wayne has tried, tried to use reasoning, and it gets you nowhere. So I like to make a record so people will know that a black man told them the truth, and despite that, they did their racist things anyway. But then I remind them that old man Kennedy told his sons, don't get mad, get even. I learn from white people. I learn from successful white people. One of his sons became President of the United States; another one became the Attorney General of the United States. He's a person that I'll look at. But he's also one of those who did not want to trade trucks for Jews. Adolf Eichmann and Hitler said, y'all make a lot of trucks in America. You don't like what we're doing to the Jews? Give us a truck and we'll give you so many Jews. And old man Kennedy, Joseph, an ambassador, said you must be out of your mind. Y'all didn't know that, did you? You love the Kennedys. Your little towns, they say we say what we said and sit down, well you can, because you're all the same. It's a fight for me all the days of my life. But unlike a lot of people, I don't get discouraged. I don't get disheartened. I don't quit. I'll stand alone as I have for 40-some-odd years. And these white people cannot last two or three days without having to leave the Chamber and maybe go get some counseling, because they heard a black man say he resents the fact that we were held as slaves and the carryover from slavery is still here and manifested on the floor of this Legislature. You all stick together. I know you do. And you're going to stick together on this. What difference does it make to you if the man says something racist? You don't think it's racist 'cause he said what you say. He said in words what you think. You all wish you could do something to me. You wish you could intimidate me. You wish you could threaten me and I'd be quiet. You threaten me and you'll make me do like a fire-eating dragon, breathing dragon will do, if you pour gasoline on him. The fire is hotter and more intense. I'm not going anywhere. And yeah, that flag is a rag. The man that Senator Wayne was talking about loves the flag. The

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committee that sent him out here loves the flag. And he said what he said and they love that. And all of that is done under the aegis of the flag. And I'm supposed to love it? You must be crazy. But you're not crazy. You're crazy like a fox. You think that you can tell me I have no right to be offended at what happened to black people and I'm supposed to swallow it. And when I don't swallow it, I'm the one who is the racist? That's the crazy stuff you talk. Child psychology doesn't even work on children. I'm going to talk and talk and talk about the part of this American history that you don't want to hear.

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: I am your history. Senator B. Hansen is not your history. He's not a slaveholder. I'm still figuratively and generally, based on the laws' impact, clanking around here in chains of slavery: psychological, intellectual, economic, sociological, all of them, in the courts, everywhere. You all are not surprised when you see that a black man unarmed was shot because somebody thought when he was running from them and he had a telephone that that was a gun. They lied and said he got in a defensive or offensive shooting posture and that's not what the film showed. But they forget about that, it doesn't matter. He's black. That's the way y'all treat us and you get away with it. And you think I'm going to be cowardly and not say something about it and you all get mad 'cause you got to pay some property tax. You wait 'til we get to your property tax bills. I cannot wait.

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: But I've got to wait.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Cavanaugh, you are recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today in support of Senator Wayne's comments and for highlighting this very important issue about a nomination. As a freshman senator, it's hard to know what the vetting process is. In my own committee, we have a particular vetting process for gubernatorial nominations and I appreciate Senator Wayne's vigilant eye when it comes to the Education Committee and this particular nominee, who I am not familiar with. I would like to share a story of a friend in the Omaha area that I feel is pertinent to this conversation today. Last year, there were students, they were, I believe, junior high and high school students that were doing track practice at a north Omaha track field. And they were just there after school with one of the parents who was also the track coach running their exercises and doing their track relays. And the police showed up and they rounded up all of the children, children, I'm talking like 10-year-olds to 17-year-olds-- rounded them all up at gun point and the parents trying to find some teenagers who had stolen a car. These kids were African-American.

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The children who stole the-- the teenagers who stole the car were African-American. My friend's child was accused of being one of these children. He suffered severely from this, from having a grownup who should be there to protect him, pointing a gun at him and accusing him of a crime when his father is standing right next to him as his track coach, and his father can't do anything because he's afraid that if he does, the police will shoot him and the police will shoot his child and the police will shoot other children. This happened in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2018. Nobody cared. The news didn't care. The police didn't care. Nobody cared that this happened in 2018 to a group of children engaging in an after-school activity being round up by the police at gun point. What 10-year-old needs to have a gun pointed at them? And of course, these children were black. So nobody cared. And I'm very sorry for those children. And I'm very sorry that I continue to hear Senator Chambers rise and say that he stands alone because he has stood alone for so long in this body. And I don't presume to speak for him, but I hope that he feels that he is not entirely alone in this body, that there are those of us that even though we will never know your experience, we will never know your life, we are here to support you. We are here to support that there is prejudice, there is systemic racism that still exists in this country, in this state, and in this body and to not discuss it is to do a disservice to everyone. Our children deserve for us to address systemic racism in a real and thoughtful way. And I appreciate Senator Wayne bringing up our attention to Mr. Engles so that--

HILGERS: One minute.

CAVANAUGH: --we can have this conversation about systemic racism and what we as a body can do to be thoughtful about it. And I hope that we can have a more robust conversation about our gubernatorial appointments. I think that we have some really great candidates. And as we did this morning, I stood up and spoke about one of them and I just hope that we can continue to have these thoughtful conversations and be respectful and acknowledge that systemic racism is a real thing and if we want to eliminate it, we need to start disrupting the system. So thank you, Senator Wayne.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Wayne, you are recognized.

WAYNE: Thank you. Colleagues, I was elected to the Learning Community in 2010. I was driving in a raggedy blue van with six basketball players. Let me tell you why this is important and why this isn't about TIF, this isn't about tick for tack. It's about something that's real in my community that we experience every day. We were stopped 'cause a taillight was out; 30th and Sprague. Cop comes up to me and says, your taillight is out. I said it can't be. I just got it out of the shop and I had it specifically in for a taillight. He said no, it's out. His partner, the second cruiser pulls up. The other cruiser gets out and says, yeah, it's out. I was like, well, can I look at it? Maybe it's just flicking. Maybe it's whatever. He said yeah, step on out. So I step out. Wait, let

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me back up, tell you how-- no, that's right, I step out. I have a gun immediately drawn on me. He says and yells, stop moving, put your hands up. So at this point I'm a little pissed. So I say, how can I stop moving and put my hands up at the same time? I have to move to put my hands up. Which one? He says, stop moving. So I left my hands on the side. At that time my basketball players, who I had sixth graders, were moving in the car. And another individual, the second patrol, pulled a gun out on them in the van and said, stop moving. I said, they're sixth graders, they have no idea what's going on. Well, they'll know what's going on, he replied, when there is a bullet fired. Luckily a third cruiser pulled up, who I actually knew, and I knew him 'cause I grew up with him. And they knew who was in the car 'cause the van was registered to me. They knew who I was. That didn't matter, cause it was a dark night. It was six African-American children and African-American male. The sergeant got out and said, lower your weapon immediately to both of them. They still fought with their sergeant to pull every sixth grader out of the car because they had gym bags. Had I not known that other sergeant, I wouldn't be standing here today, because when you see a sixth-grader in tears, it takes all restraint not to go after somebody. So later on that day, we go to practice at 6:30. I have a very diverse-- we used to brag about the diversity on our team. We had VPs of Fortune 500 companies to kids who were on poverty and poverty 100 percent-- 200 percent below poverty. But we canceled practice and had a big meeting with 40 young males. And we had to walk through how to interact with police, how to have a conversation, how the fact that if you have a cell phone in your pocket, you don't touch it because the person around the street from my house growing up was murdered 'cause he had a cell phone, they thought it was a gun, Marvin Ammons. See, I remember names because it's that ingrained in our fabric of dealing with police. And we've done a lot to mend those bridges since 2010. But what you just heard about in 2018, that's been talked about for the last couple months. It still happens. And what I saw from this body today was some of the hard core--

HILGERS: One minute.

WAYNE: --issues and prejudices and things that we have to overcome in north Omaha can't be delayed for a week to have a conversation. We can't delay it a week to make sure everything is okay. This body took that. That isn't a message about felon voting rights. That's a message about appointing somebody today who had a comment and you expect me not to take it personal. You expect me to rise above everything and say we'll just keep moving. But you expect me to vote green and not speak four more times and hold up this process for the good. I may lose political capital in this. I may lose relationships over this. But there are issues in my community I'm willing to stand alone. This is one of them.

HILGERS: Time, Senator.

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WAYNE: Economic development is one of them. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Senator Brewer, you are recognized.

BREWER: Thank you, Mr. President. The issue that Senator Wayne is addressing needs addressed and I guess this is the forum we decided to do it. The comments that were made about Henry Ford's post, I went back and looked at 'cause if we're going to start weighing and determining people's worthiness over comments they post, then we probably should at least take a hard look at them. I'll take a quick chance to read his comments. Any man who thinks that he can be happy and prosperous by letting the government take care of them had better take a closer look at the American Indian and the reservation. I'm not sure why anyone is very offended by that. If you lived around or grew up on an Indian reservation, you would understand that if you wanted healthcare, the Indian health services is one of the most broken systems anywhere. Not too long ago, I took my mother to see a physician there and it was a two-day process and then it was another two-day process to get the meds. So if you take a quick look at that microcosm of socialism, what you got is a system that you stand in line to get your commodities. You are given a substance of just enough to maintain life. And you're given no opportunities within the confines of that reservation to probably have much of a life unless you work for the federal government. So if someone is offended by that, I would ask you to just understand the ground truth of what happens on an Indian reservation. It is not a very pleasant story. But it is the system that we have set up and it probably will never be broken because the mindset and the system that exists there is probably going to be impossible to ever change in the future. But back to the issue at hand here, the individual that withdrew his nomination to that Emergency Response Commission did that because the fear was that this body in that open forum where they can accuse and direct whatever passion of the moment they have towards someone could result in them losing their full-time job over this volunteer position they want. And you can say so, big deal. But what we will do is either have empty commissions or we'll have them filled with people who are not qualified, who are empty suits. And why is that important? Well, this commission that we addressed in the Government Committee determines decisions that will either have positive consequences in disasters or negative ones. So human lives can be at stake here. So again, I understand the emotion of the moment, how easy it is to damn things. But understand this process is not perfect. We can tweak it and make it better, but the idea of having these commissions and being able to do this is invaluable to the overall body. With that, I would like to yield the rest of my time to Senator Slama.

HILGERS: Senator Slama, 1:14.

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SLAMA: Thank you. I'll be brief. I have reached out to the nominee and he has now released a public statement and I'd like to share it here. I strongly support the work of the Nebraska State College System at our three campuses--

HILGERS: One minute.

SLAMA: --in Chadron, Peru, and Wayne, Nebraska. I welcome the opportunity to help promote the educational goals of all students, regardless of race, creed, and national origin. All students are welcome in our schools with open arms. I'd also like to reiterate that Bob Engles was the mayor of Auburn for eight years, school board member before that for 12, and has served on the state college board of trustees since 2011 and was reappointed in 2012. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Slama and Senator Brewer. Senator Chambers, you are recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we're a legislature. Those statements should be made at the hearing and not sent to us through a woman. That's what happens around here. Senator Cavanaugh, Senator Wayne told you all some things, I could tell you about things that happened to me personally during the years that I've lived. And you'd wonder why I'm saying why I didn't go get a gun and shoot up the police station. But see, there were cops who told me things that happened in the police station because they were disgusted and they knew that I'd do something about it and I brought about changes in the police station because white cops trusted me. But they were afraid to say anything. They were afraid and they hid behind me. And that's how I got the reputation for being one who foments violence, hates the cops. I hate what cops do. And I'm offended that other cops who see them doing it won't arrest them as they should. I'm not going to pussyfoot for anybody and nobody is going to send a message to this Legislature through me! I say you do it! You tell them! And they hide behind a woman's skirts. That's what the Governor does. The Governor first threw a rock at me before he was even the Governor and he did it at a hearing, a meeting they had and Kay Orr was there. She called him a man of faith. He talked about how he was going to build, at that time his word was "grow" and I've handed around the article: he's going to grow a coalition to handle Senator Chambers. He's a smart man, but he's just one man. And here is a guy who is not even Governor and he's talking about growing a coalition to stop me and I'm not supposed to be offended? You think I'm like you? That I'm going to fold up and blow away like a dry wind-- leaf in the wind 'cause I'm a coward like you white men sitting here? The Governor can intimidate you. Let him try! Let him send somebody to do it! They make their anonymous calls and curse out the woman in my office. They can find me. I'm down here every day! Come see me! I don't ask these troopers to do anything for me. And I'm not condemning them. They're not here to protect me.

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They're here to protect you all. You cowards. Then you're going to stand up and alibi for some white man. You can do it and you will do it and you'll vote for this man. I know you. And you've done it all the years I've been here. And I'm not going to change. I'm not going to become like you. I know what poor people. And you don't hear me just talk about black people. Let me read you something. She signed it, but I won't give her name. Senator Chambers, I'm a farmer's wife. Thank you for serving Nebraska as a state senator. God bless. And she signed. And they-- some of these kind of people leave messages on my phone at home. Some of them call and apologize to Cindy about what their fellow Christians say. Let the Christian come and confront me at my office or on the street and say to me what he said to her. Hiding behind a woman. Do I think I'm tough? No. I might can't lick my lips. I'm 82 years old. But I'll do the best I can for as long as I can. I'm not going to run from anybody and I'm not going to take low for anybody. And I'm not going to apologize for the things that I say and what I believe. You don't hear me attacking private citizens like Senator Erdman attacked some professors and now he's being sued, which is what ought to happen. You guys are tough and bold when you've got things your way. When you can fly thousands of feet in the air and drop bombs on people who are not white, you feel good. But in Vietnam, they brought you down on the ground, didn't they?

HILGERS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: You had to come down on the ground and you met somebody who had maybe a knife, maybe a garret. But when the sun went down, then as Malcolm X said, it was even-steven and you all didn't do so well. So you brought Agent Orange. You decimated villages. Lieutenant Calley murdered those people and he wound up being forgiven by the then President. That's what white people have done all over the world wherever they've gone. And I'm going to come to this place where there are tools here and I'm not going to use them to the full. If I can't use them, I'm going to hinder you from using them to oppress people even more. And I speak for your kind, not just my kind. I spent a lot of years to save a white man from being executed. And because I was successful for decades, your Chief Justice changed the court rules--

HILGERS: Time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Colleague, per the direction of the Speaker, after recess we will come back to this agenda item. Those who are currently in the queue, we will keep the queue intact and the speaking order. You will be in the queue so long as you don't turn your light off in the meantime. Mr. Clerk, for items.

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CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Enrollment and Review reports LB87 to Select File with E&R amendments attached. Health Committee, chaired by Senator Howard reports LB135, LB347, and LB541 to General File. I have a series of resolutions: Senator Kolterman, LR65 and LR66; Senator Walz, LR67, LR68, LR69, LR70, LR71; Senator McDonnell to LR72; Senator Crawford LR73, LR74 [SIC]; Senator Slama, LR75. Senator Stinner would like to print an amendment to LB481; Senator DeBoer to LB130. And I have a confirmation report from Health and Human Services Committee. An announcement, Mr. President, the Appropriations Committee will meet in Executive Session at 12:30 in Room 1003; Appropriations at 12:30 in their hearing room.

And Mr. President, a motion to recess: Senator Friesen would move to recess the body until 1:30 p.m.

HILGERS: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. We are in recess.

RECESS

SCHEER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. The afternoon session is about to reconvene. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any items for the record?

CLERK: I have nothing at this time, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll proceed back to the afternoon's agenda. Senator Groene, would you please refresh us on the confirmation report from Education.

GROENE: We left off at noon on the appointment of Robert Engles to the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska State Colleges. And that's where we're at and that's where we'll continue. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Returning to floor discussion. Senator Slama, you're recognized.

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SLAMA: Thank you, Mr. President. Bob Engles is a dedicated public servant who served as the mayor of Auburn for eight years. He served 12 years on the Auburn school board, four of which he served as president; and has served on the Nebraska state college board of trustees since 2011. His resume is one of an exemplary public servant. With regard to the Facebook posts presented today by Senator Wayne, Bob released the following public statement: I strongly support the work of the Nebraska state college system at our three campuses in Wayne-- in Chadron, Peru, and Wayne, Nebraska. I welcome the opportunity to promote the educational goals of all students regardless of race, creed, and national origin. All students are welcome in our schools with open arms. I read that statement just before we departed for lunch today. And Senator Chambers, as the last person to speak before lunch, responded on the mike the message from Bob should have been shared at committee. But instead, that message was delivered by a woman. Let me repeat that. Instead, the message was delivered by a woman. I had to look around to my colleagues on both side of the aisle and their looks of disbelief confirmed that I had just heard what I thought. My gender was referred to dismissively as if me being a woman made my statement less valuable. Senator Chambers, I respect the work you've done for women in this body and across the state. During my time in working with you this session, we've had nothing but respectful interactions behind the scenes. However, I will not sit quietly when blatantly sexist comments are directed toward me. This goes far beyond a simple confirmation debate and brings up larger questions of the role of women in this body and their treatment compared to men. If Bob's statement had been read by a man in this body, I have serious doubts that Senator Chambers would have said: the message from Bob should have been shared at committee, but instead the message was delivered by a man. Or even, but instead, the message was delivered by a senator. By using the word "woman" in that sentence, the goal was to portray females as a weaker sex, vulnerable to the whims of men. In that statement my argument was undermined, not because Senator Chambers disagreed with these substantive positions in debate, but because I'm a woman. It's interesting that Senator Chambers who considers himself to be a progressive and a champion for women would refer to me and my gender so dismissively. Perhaps it's because I'm a strong conservative woman. Blatantly sexist statements said on the mike in this body deserve to be denounced. So, yes, the message this morning was delivered by a woman. And in this body, I'm a senator and would prefer to be addressed as such. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Slama. Senator Hunt, you're recognized.

HUNT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't rise today in judgment of any person, but just to say that I'm in agreement with Senator Wayne that the vetting process that we apply to appointees in our committee confirmation hearings is dysfunctional. It's not working. And I haven't been mentioned today specifically, but I'm the one who brought concerns in another committee a few weeks ago about the discriminatory views of an appointee who I understand will not be coming to this floor for a vote for that reason, and for that I'm glad. And for that I would say that I'm

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glad that we did our due diligence, although I wish we had gotten to it sooner and hopefully as a result of this discussion we can continue to improve our vetting process as a Legislature; keeping that in committee where it belongs, and hopefully as a result of these conversations on the floor today that can happen in the future. Senator Brewer said on the mike this morning that if we scrutinize people's social media profiles, there may not be enough people to fill these really important positions. But if the only people we can find who are qualified in Nebraska are people who potentially share white nationalist viewpoints or anti-immigration or anti-Muslim or discriminatory views, then guess what, we shouldn't confirm any of them and we should ask ourselves what's going on in this state systemically that is preventing people who don't hold these views from being successful, that's preventing people who don't hold these views from being appointed to positions like this. If that's true, and I don't think it's true for the record, but if that's true and if that's a real concern, then that should raise a lot of questions for us about our vetting process and about our talent pool in this state, which is why I think that we need to take senators seriously when they talk about workplace protections, when they talk about Medicaid expansion, about increasing the tipped minimum wage, about supporting SNAP benefits, all things that will help improve the quality of life and draw people to our state so we can keep improving that talent pool. Some people in the body have told me to my face, which is great, that's my favorite way to get talked to, that my criticism of the Governor on social media, quote, makes it hard to support my bills, unquote. That's fine. But those people who think that, they shouldn't just say it to me, they should say it on the mike; they should say it to the newspaper and the press, and they should say it to their constituents when the question is, why aren't you supporting good policy? It's because of something I said on social media? And I on the other hand, when I see racist and discriminatory things that are said on social media, that are shared online by appointees, that makes it hard for me to support them. And it should make all of-- it hard for all of you to support them. A lot of people here talk about civility only to quiet or call out or shame people who are standing up for the human rights of others. That's when we need to be civil. But when things like this happen, nothing. I distributed for everybody a copy of an article from the North Platte Bulletin where Senator Brewer is quoted as saying about the freshman senators in our body: One woman is transgender and reminds us of it most every day. I have nothing against her sexual preference, but there should be a level of professionalism and decorum on the floor. We see children on the floor, which creates another distraction. Is Senator Brewer on the floor?

BREWER: Yes!

HUNT: Would you yield to a question?

BREWER: Yes!

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HUNT: Do you think I'm trans?

BREWER: I don't know what you are.

HUNT: Thank you. That's all. Senator Groene earlier said that this discussion was beneath the dignity of this body. It's not beneath the dignity of this body to adapt to changing technology and use it as much as we can to get as much information as we can, to vet the people who are appointed to positions of public power and public service even if they're volunteering, even if they don't get any pay.

SCHEER: One minute.

HUNT: Thank you. I cannot support someone with discriminatory views being appointed to serve people in my district who are very diverse in race, who are very diverse in national origin, immigration status, sexuality. And of course that's true for all of us. And in today's political and cultural climate, it's more important than ever for us in the Legislature to draw a bright line against nationalist viewpoints and to stand as guardians against systemic racism in this state. Again, I'm not saying that's going on about any one appointee. I'm saying that this conversation has raised a lot of questions about our vetting process, whether that's in the administration or in the Legislature, and I'm glad we're having this conversation, and I'm glad that we're bringing civility into the mix, because we can all learn some lessons about that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hunt and Senator Brewer. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to continue the conversation about systemic racism. We've seen several pieces of legislation, some that Senator Hunt just mentioned, that address the issues of systemic racism. And I think it's an important conversation for us to continue to have. And I appreciate Senator Wayne and Senator Chambers starting that conversation for us. In looking over bills and pieces of legislation that will help disrupt systemic racism in our state, I look to Senator Wayne's bill and my own bill on voting rights. It is a historical documented fact that the disenfranchisement of felons in voting is because of systemic racism. Some states have even, in their own state statutes, that they enacted disenfranchisement of felons, convicted felons, so that they could maintain white supremacy. I think it's a wonderful thing for Nebraska to even have the conversation, and I hope we have more than the conversation, but we have the vote to eliminate this disenfranchisement of felon-- convicted felons, I'm sorry. Another thing is the intergenerational poverty issue that we face here in Nebraska. There are many things that we can do to support intergenerational poverty, and intergenerational poverty affects everyone, but it disproportionately affects people of color. One thing we could do as a legislative body to address intergenerational poverty is to expand SNAP

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benefits, to expand early child care subsidies, and to take to task payday lending. Finally, I'd like to talk about housing. I toured housing apartments in Omaha a couple months ago after Senator Wayne brought his bill about the housing inspections. The families living in that housing were not white. They weren't black. They were mostly immigrants from all over the world, to be honest, and they were living in communities together, and they were not living in subsidized housing. They were paying full rent. They were paying \$1,000 a month, \$1,500 a month for a three-bedroom apartment in Omaha. And there were cockroaches, and there holes in the wall where mice had eaten through, and there was smell of urine and feces coming through the vents because of the mice that were living in there. There were babies. There was one woman holding a beautiful baby girl who was only two weeks older than my son, Barrett, and I cried for this woman. I wanted to take her home with me. I wanted to take her baby home with me because they had bedbugs that were eating this child. They had rat feces that were making this child sick; this beautiful, little girl. It broke my heart. So when we're talking about people involved in education, I hope that our Education Committee is doing their job, doing their due diligence and vetting the candidates that they're putting forward and making sure that they're addressing these issue of systemic racism in our state. I hope that they will all be very careful about who they're putting forward to educate our children and to be responsible for the future of our state. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. Senator Chambers, and this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and I'll have many more opportunities this afternoon. Senator Slama is not Perry Mason. I am not Hamilton Burger. She didn't listen to all that I said. I did hear her say she's a strong, conservative woman. Well, what I mentioned was that here's a man hiding behind a woman's skirts. I had to mention that he sent the message by a woman, which he did, and I said he's hiding behind a woman's skirts and then I mentioned other people who had done the same kind of thing. These people are silly when they say things like that. It's silly if a woman says it. It's silly if a man says it. And I'm not going to fail to properly characterize something because a woman does it. She's here as a senator and when she jumps into the pot, she's got to take whatever is in there being swirled around. He is hiding behind a woman's skirts. I say it again. And what he should have said, if he meant the right thing. He is aware of this discussion. He could have terminated all of this discussion and handled it by saying, let them know that if they schedule another hearing, I will come, and I will testify. That's what he could have said. But he hid behind a woman's skirts. And any man who sends a woman to do the work, and he thinks that by so doing it will prevent me from saying what I've got on my mind, he's got another think coming, and she's got a first think coming. She should have listened to the whole thing. There's a biblical verse that said: eat the whole roll. The whole thing. So back to this discussion. This man knows that when he puts comments out there, people are going to read them, and he puts them out there for the purpose of their being read. I

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don't use the gadget. But from what I heard on television and read in the paper, whatever you put out there you may as well assume and presume that it's out there forever, even if you're young when you do it. It may come to haunt you later, when you're seeking a job or a position where the things you stated way back when will come back to haunt you. I mentioned how Joe Biden is having something haunt him now, and it didn't even make sense to me what was alleged, that he kissed a woman on the back of her head. And now that would disqualify him from being President when you all's President, especially you conservative President lovers, grab women by the crotch and laughed and joked about it. His wife was so embarrassed that she picked up on what the media said, well, that was just locker talk. He put that woman in an impossible position. If you ever watch when the three of them are together: Trump, his wife, and their son. The little boy looks like he's lost. He looks like he's walking in a trance. He can't go to school. I don't believe he goes to public school. I haven't read that or private school. He's got a fool for a father who uses profanity, has been married more than once, who jokes about grabbing women's private parts, who ridicules and mocks people who are what he would call deformed and crippled, and this little boy has to go to school. He's punished by having a fool and a crazy man for a father. I was saying--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Did you say time?

SCHEER: No, one minute, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Okay. You are watching your country fall apart before your eyes. And you're watching it being done by a man who is steadily losing what little mind he has left. A medical doctor in Omaha put a piece in the Public Pulse where he questioned the sanity of your President. This is the time when the people around him ought to invoke the Twenty-Fifth Amendment to the constitution, declare him to be unfit to carry out the duties of office, and declare him removed. He would have an opportunity to make his case. Then it would be up to a certain percentage of Congress to vote one way or the other, but that issue is going to have to be addressed, and it should be addressed before an international crisis, not just where finances are concerned, but maybe the rockets red glare, bombs bursting in air. Something needs to be done to prevent that, and the only thing that--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --will prevent that is the removal--

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SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --of Donald Trump from the presidency. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Matt Hansen, you're recognized.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and good afternoon, colleagues. Colleagues, I rise today for the first time. I've been helping out with some other senators on another bill for much of this day, so I've heard portions of the debate and try to be as attentive as I can, but I won't-- not be able to say that I've seen everything. But some of what we've discussed is kind of been relative to actions I've taken in this body, so I thought it was appropriate for me, and I punched in before lunch and I get to speak now. We've been talking about this Government Committee report that was-- that has kind of been dancing out there. And from my perspective as a Government Committee member and as somebody who was told about these posts, I just kind of want to explain to you what had happened and how it went down. So we had the appointments to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. And there was a gentlemen, Trent Kleinow, who had, as you would want, an impeccable professional record, as far as I can tell in terms of working in public safety and having wide credentials. Unfortunately, he had a vary series of both racist and sexist and all sorts of other discriminatory things posted on Facebook. I was not aware of this at the hearing. Like many confirmation hearings, we had the hearing. It went well. I did not necessarily know of this information, so I, upon the initial recommendation, voted for it to advance it from the committee. And that came out of committee 7-1 with myself and others supporting it. Immediately after the hearing, I talked to our senator who in the committee who had voted no. That was Senator Hunt, and I just spoke to her now. I talked to her after the committee and we had very little discussion. And I asked why she'd voted no and she told me about the Facebook post of which I went and found it myself afterwards. And I'm not going to do the courtesy of giving those views a higher platform, but if anybody is wondering what we're talking about, I do have copies of the one I had found. It was the most recent one, although as I said, there were many and many troubling ones. At that point, I brought that information to Senator Brewer and had the understanding of-- it was kind of-- he is the Committee Chair. I told him I was going to speak against that confirmation should it come to the floor. And just kind of left it in his hands. I appreciate the actions he took from there. He gave us an opportunity as a committee to withdraw our recommendation upon reconsideration. I think that was upon learning the new information, overall a good handling of it. But we were talking about this, and this came up in past weeks about what Government had and what Government can we do and whether or not Government Committee members tricked another one or knew something or knew nothing. I wanted to point that out because talking with that, you know, we had a committee member who did not feel safe and comfortable taking a stand. She was going to vote her conscious, but did not feel, as she has told me, comfortable making an issue of it, she wasn't sure if it was going to matter in the long run. I think we've seen visages of this on this committee

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member on this floor. I'm glad we were able to stop that committee amendment-- committee amendment, sorry; committee confirmation from moving forward because I don't know if it came to the floor if we would have had 25 people who, despite the obvious and sexist and racist nature of his posts, were going to be willing to take a stand. I think that's something we are struggling with as a body. I do appreciate the concern about the standard, and I understand that some of the discussions [INAUDIBLE] productive. But some of these posts, some of these individuals have such a clear violation that I would hope that it would be unanimous once it came to light for us body to move forward. But obviously, if we've seen one confirmation report where there's a question and some troublesome and some confusion over what he stands for and what he feels, I don't have great optimism on that. That's something I've struggled with in the past. You know, I have to--

SCHEER: One minute.

M. HANSEN: – do this mea culpa-- thank you, Mr. President-- I had to do this mea culpa on the floor. I, way back in the day of my first year, supported Superintendent Rice out of Government Committee to be head of the State Patrol and more information came out from there to the committee hearing-- post committee hearing. And I had to stand up on the floor and change my vote and explain why and explain what I learned. And we still confirmed him, and he still resigned in disgrace, despite the opposition and we spoke on on that day. And we've had lasting problems with the State Patrol both connected to and related to that. I bring that up because that was something I as a freshman senator really struggled with. I ultimately was going to be the lone dissent in Government and was not, and despite asking Senator Murante at the time, the Chairman, for an extra weekend to think about it, I voted yes and ultimately learned more and more and more and confirmed my gut reaction. I bring that up because this is just to say this a reoccurring issue. This is a reoccurring issue. There's these allegations of discrimination on so many issues we as a body really need to figure out how--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. --how we're going to handle it.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Williams, you're recognized.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. President; and good afternoon, colleagues. I had the distinct honor of starting this morning by saying one of my favorite quotes from Gordon Sumner who is an English philosopher when he said there's no monopoly on common sense on either side of the political fence. We share the same biology regardless of our ideology, and believe me when I say to you, I know each one of us loves our children too. He actually said, I pray that the Russians

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love their children, too, because he penned those words during the Cold War when there was a lot of discussion going on. The lesson we are learning today is important. And the lesson that I have learned today is important. And I think this is an important wake up call for all of us. I appreciate greatly Senator Wayne using this opportunity to help us all understand the importance of confirmation hearings and going through that process in a meaningful, thoughtful manner. And I think we've all been guilty at times of rushing through that process. Maybe not asking all the questions because we have more work to do, and we may not have done the best job in preparation for the hearing, reviewing the materials and other things. And I think it's imperative, especially for those of us that again have the honor of representing you as Committee Chairs. But when those opportunities come before our committee that we spend that time and do that due diligence and do that vetting in a proper way. I believe that's the lesson to be learned today. I don't believe the lesson to be learned is to go back and redo what we've tried to do right the first time. It's to go forward with new vigor and new responsibility. I have heard nothing that would dissuade me from confirming Bob Engles. I have talked to a few people that know him personally that have vouched for him, and that is certainly good enough for me at this point. I would encourage each one of us to recognize that we have an awesome responsibility here as senators. And that we work hard to fulfill those responsibilities and duties and recognize that this is a wake up call. Let's move forward. And I will be voting to confirm Bob Engles. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized.

KOLTERMAN: Good afternoon, colleagues. I, too, rise to talk about this issue. I want Senator Wayne to know that I really appreciated hearing his story this morning. It's not very often that we hear what it's like growing up in those types of surroundings or with those types of challenges that are brought to you just because of the color of your skin. That's completely nonsense. I don't think we talk about that sort of thing enough in here. The only one that's ever really talked about that to any extent over the years has been Senator Chambers, and I've always respected his opinion as well. Growing up in a town like Seward, Nebraska; a town of 8,000, I think I could count on one hand the number of people of color that lived in my town as I was growing up. And I'll bet today there's probably not 20 people of color in the town of Seward, Nebraska. So I don't think we understand the challenges that are faced in metropolitan cities and our other communities. We're somewhat shielded from that. Does that make it right? Probably not. But it's a reality. So again, I really appreciated hearing that story this morning and it brings a lot more perspective to the situation. I do want to talk a little bit about what Senator Williams just talked about, the idea that we, as Committee Chairs, probably need to do a better job of vetting. I mean, we get-- we get the opportunity to listen to people on the phone as they call in or come to see us, and we don't always get to the deep roots of the situation. We're basing it on the fact that they've been nominated by someone, that they've done the due diligence for us, and there's mistakes that are made. We're human beings. The other thing I want to talk about is Bob Engles. I've known

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Bob Engles for probably 20 years. Bob Engles, yeah, he's a white guy. He's been mayor of Auburn, Nebraska. He served on the college board. He served on his school board. I will tell you this, he's not a racist. I can't vouch for the remarks that he made or the posts that he made, but I can vouch for his character, his reputation, and I will tell you firsthand Bob Engles is a class act and he deserves to be appointed. Now, having said that, should we have asked for him to sit down with Senator Wayne and just allow him to ask some questions? Possibly. But at the time we're moving through this, I just felt like I've known Bob for years. I know he's not a racist and I wanted to get up and support him. I do realize, as I started out, we're a diverse body of people, and we need to keep that in mind, and we need to learn from each other. So with that, I hope that we can continue to dialogue like this. It's important dialogue to have. We need to continue to embrace each others' ideas, support each other. And at the end of the day, no matter how tough it goes, we have to all walk out of here as friends and colleagues, because we're elected to do a job by our constituents, and that's what we're here to do. So, with that I would yield any extra time I have to Senator Wayne if he'd like it.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, 1:10.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President; and thank you, Senator Kolterman. I want to remind colleagues how this started today. This was never a witch hunt on the individual that we're going to vote on. But it was about process. And I'm glad that we're having this fight about process now in the early rounds and the regular season, rather than post-tournament time because this is going to define the rest of our Legislature. However we come out of this, win or loss, it's going to define how we deal with bigger issues down the road: our budget, property taxes. But understand there are some things that I am willing to die on the sword for, and that is economic development in my community. So to give everybody a clear vision, I did turn in a card with vote numbers on there. I don't know when it will be rescheduled, but the fact of the matter is, we all have to decide individually what's more important. And for me, economic development in my community is number one. And at this year I'm not--

SCHEER: Time, Senator Wayne, but you are next in the queue so you may continue.

WAYNE: Thank you, Mr. President. This year I'm not backing down from that notion that every day I'm going to focus on economic development. How we change my community is economic development. But there has to be a process, and that process includes a give and take on both sides: urban versus rural, Democrats versus Republicans, conservative versus liberals; whatever it is we have to come to an agreement. There has to be a process. But if we're not willing to move and talk, that's fine; but in some points you get to a point, like my amendment, you can't go anywhere else and it comes to straight up and down vote. And that's fine. But we can have an educated debate on the floor. That's part of the process. But what I don't enjoy and what I won't

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appreciate anymore is just making up facts on the floor and arguing and saying the same thing over and over. If that's considered extended debate, then that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to play by the rules that you all create. The fact of the matter is, this process was flawed in this particular case, that I gave this body a chance to have a new hearing for him to put on record what he stood for. Is a Facebook post saying things enough? Maybe for some of you. But it shouldn't come to this to the floor to do that. And we can't say, Senator Groene, that this is about retaliation for TIF. No, this is about comments that were made on social media that questioned the ability to make sure the students I represent will be treated fairly and equally and equitable to everyone else in the building at these colleges. Social media posts matter. They matter because that defines sometimes how you think and how you feel. And if we have anybody come before a committee and we don't have somebody Googling them, shame on us. Think about that. In the private sector, all the individuals who say run government like a business, better believe in HR they do a check. Better believe that they double check to make sure you're not posting something crazy before they hire you. And we're talking about appointing somebody to oversee our college system, state college system. And all I ask this body was to have a new hearing, just to have a new hearing. I've seen it done. Last year we had a hearing on NPPD that came out of nowhere that went to the Natural Resources Committee to have a special hearing to bring a bill back to the floor that was gutted. I've seen emergency hearings. It happened. And when dealing with our students, I don't think that was too far of a reach for me to ask. So now we're going to vote on somebody, which I feel is an incomplete process. So my present not voting today isn't a no against that individual. I believe Senator Kolterman. I believe Senator Williams. I believe people who vouch for them. But I don't have enough information on these particular issues for me to cast a yes. I can't change that. I offered this body the opportunity to change that. And we're going to keep slowly spiraling out of control until we have better processes in place, until we have better dialogue in place. I was clear from day one, after what happened to my bill, whose bills I was targeting just to make sure that we had the same conversation that was on mine. That's not changed. The next four or five bills are going to go straight through, I think, unless somebody else is talking about them.

SCHEER: One minute.

WAYNE: But I have to stand and look at myself in the mirror and say this is what my community wants, and I termed it last time: this is my mountain lion moment. And if property tax is yours, let's sit down and figure out how we come to an agreement. As I was mentioning the North Platte editorial, that is how it's done. It's compromise, it's collaboration. It isn't one way or the other. And we have to decide that. I've shown you today that I'm willing to go the distance. I don't want to. Most of you know that I don't want to. I want to sit down and figure out what works for western Nebraska and what works for my community. And that's where I'm at. And I hope we have a dialogue about that, and I hope you understand that. This is not personal. This is for my community. And I'm not going to apologize for that.

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SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Wayne. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Groene, you're welcomed to close on the confirmation report.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to-- on the application process, every candidate to be appointed has to sign a form that says I hereby grant the Governor's Office and Nebraska State Patrol permission to obtain and provide the Governor and any other records pertaining to me of the Department of Revenue, Department of Motor Vehicles, law enforcement agency, credit bureaus, past and present employers, employees business associates, affiliations and acquaintances. There is a vetting process. And I'm amazed how many-- that we have anybody at all step forward for positions that are unpaid. I'm absolutely amazed. The Governor has very small group of people to pick from, and he's going have a lot less after today. I'm just telling you that. I thank God every day I've never been on Facebook; I've never been on Twitter, and I'm sure some of my opponents have scoured the Internet looking. You will never find anything. This is a good man, Mr. Engles. He's been a public servant all his life, spent evenings at school board meetings, evenings at city council meetings, no profit to himself, and then he steps forward and does this. And, yes, if I was Mr. Engles in his position, I would call my state senator on the floor, and Senator Slama is Mr. Engles' state senator. Not his man, not his woman, his state senator to speak for him and to defend him. He's a good man. His posts were not racist. They were heart-thought questions. You can read those things and say-- and you can look at them in two ways: are you concerned about the victim? Are you concerned about the American Indian and his plight and why do we allow it? Are you as concerned about the victim in north Omaha who's black, no matter who his perpetrator was? You can read it that way, or you can read it about the perpetrator. I prefer to read Mr. Engles' comments about the victim and his concern. So I would appreciate if you would vote green on Mr. Engles and affirm the vetting process that we did, the Governor's Office did, and the committee did, and the public did. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. The question is the adoption of the report offered by the Education Committee. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 3 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

SCHEER: Confirmation report is approved. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee reports on the appointment of Dwayne Probyn to the Board of Educational Lands and Funds.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, you're welcome to open on the confirmation.

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GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I start with a prayer that Mr. Probyn never was on Facebook. This appointment is to the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, commonly referred to as BELF, was established in the Nebraska Constitution in 1875 and they're responsible for general management of all lands set apart for educational purposes under the direction of the Legislature. This is a five-member board and members serve a term of five years. Dwayne Probyn is appointed for the first time to represent District 2. He is the CEO for the Nebraska Advanced Manufacturing Coalition. He received his master's degree in industrial management and STEM from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. Mr. Probyn currently serves on the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The Education Committee advanced his nomination from committee with a vote of 7 ayes and 1 absent due to sickness. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Senator Chambers. You're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when I embark on a journey I complete it. I said I'm going to take time to talk and I intend to do exactly that. I cannot be placated easily. Once bitten, twice wise. Twice bitten, a fool. There are people on this floor who look you in the eye and tell you he or she intends to do something, and at that instant intends to do it. But being weak when the Governor cracks the whip, those people change. If I say I'm going to do something and I change my mind, I will let all of those who knew or heard me say that and were counting on it know that I had changed my mind. I had told some of you I would talk to Senator Wayne about his TIF proposal. And some came to me after the, whatever it is hit the fan, not being like your President, I can't use the word that he would use and the Christians would go up in a shout of glee and joy. But when I became aware of the behind-the-scenes discussions, understandings and so forth, what I had said I would talk to Senator Wayne about diminished and diminished until it reached the point of having no more existence. I didn't create the problem. I wasn't going to try to solve it for the people who did. Billy Joel sang a song, and I don't know why they don't play it on the radio: "We didn't start the fire. The fire's been burning since the world's been turning, we didn't start the fire." Then he names numerous individuals, numerous occasions, all of them the occasions bad or problematic. He put Malcolm X right in a line he was singing that mentioned the Pope. And some people don't know who Malcolm X was. And you have no reason, based on your orientation, to be concerned. Now when people get on this floor and take issue with me, I welcome it, because it gives me an opportunity to engage, and that's what we need. And it will let people know that when they come to me know what they're talking about. And if they don't, I'm willing to enlighten them and we can discuss it however long they choose to do so. If it were just that person and myself, the debate wouldn't be that long. But others are conscious of the fact that people are watching, people are listening, and what other people think and say is what means the world to them. I've been told about the things that are said against and about me on social media, and that there are three sites that are supposed to be mine. I don't know what they say. I wouldn't know how to find them. I don't even care. If I'm walking down the street and there's some drunks arguing under the streetlight at night and I hear

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my name, Chambers. Now I look and if one of them doesn't wave at me and trying to give me a greeting, I don't stop to take issue with some drunks who have an opinion about me. You know what it shows? That I am so consequential in their life that through all that alcoholic haze the thing that stands out with crystal clarity is Chambers. The impact that I have on these white people cannot be measured. They would rather have a number 8 earthquake if there's one that goes that high on the Richter scale than have a confrontation with me publicly. Well, if you're right, if you believe in what you're doing and saying, what difference does it make who is on the other side? What difference does it make how many people are listening? A crowd, no matter how big, is composed of individuals, any one of which would not intimidate you just by being present. But when they all come together, you see a collective in the same way that ants are deemed to develop a collective mentality or understanding when they're all working together.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: They become an organism. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: And I apologize, Senator Chambers, I forgot to give you a minute warning. Senator Cavanaugh, you're recognized.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just looking up the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, and I see that it's a five-member board, and I had some questions. I wondered if Senator Groene would mind yielding for a question.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, would you please yield?

GROENE: Yes.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Senator. And you might not have the answers to these. I apologize if I'm putting you on the spot. Do you know, does the Governor recruit for applicants or how does the appointment for this particular board work?

GROENE: They-- you should, as a senator, get a sheet once in a while and it says we have all of these openings.

CAVANAUGH: Okay.

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GROENE: Once in a while, I have called the people and said you'd fit good for this. Some of them, like the Judiciary appointments, they need a Democrat and they need a Republican, and I've recruited a couple Democrats in my conservative area to be on the Judiciary selection committee. But normally-- I was on one. I think it all varies. I was on one on Obamacare that all of a sudden I got a phone call out of nowhere, and I didn't know Governor Heineman that much, from one of his staff, and said the Governor thought of you and said give a call. Would you consider being on this and then I threw my hat in the ring and wasted about six afternoons driving to Lincoln.

CAVANAUGH: The question kind of arose for me because I notice that the members were all gentlemen, and I wondered if there was any effort to recruit some diversity to the board. But it sounds like it's kind of on us as a body to be proactive in doing so.

GROENE: Yeah, if you know people of knowledge and tell them to-- female--

CAVANAUGH: I'm not sure if I do, but I'll certainly look into it.

GROENE: I've often wondered why there's a few ladies in north Omaha I deal with, a very good people, why they haven't been invited or why they haven't. Probably because you have to pay your own expenses to go to the meetings most of the times and you don't get paid.

CAVANAUGH: I do have one additional question for you about this, and it actually just escaped my mind, so I apologize. Oh, so is there any vetting for conflicts of interest? I'm not specifically concerned, but when it comes to these appointments, do we have to check on that?

GROENE: You have to fill out a--

CAVANAUGH: Disclosure form.

GROENE: All your-- a disclosure-- just like we do about where you have your investments, where you bank, where you've worked.

CAVANAUGH: OK.

GROENE: I know a couple of them you can't because it deals with education, you can't be an employee of an educational institution to be on it because you have a bias.

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CAVANAUGH: OK, thank you.

GROENE: It varies on the position.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. I'm just trying to get a greater understanding of our processes. Thank you, Senator. I yield the remainder of my time.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Groene. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if Senator Groene would yield to a couple questions.

SCHEER: Senator Groene, would you please yield?

GROENE: Yes.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you for yielding, Senator Groene. Mike really doesn't deal with the appointment as much as what-- you know, I've had recently people call me about these lands that are managed by the state, who owns them. I know at one time each county had a certain amount of land dedicated to the school districts or the money was to go to the school districts. Can you explain that whole thing to us a little bit so people have a better understanding of what we're up against here?

GROENE: With every township originally there was a section of land or something that was dedicated to pay for the schools because we had no money back in the 1800s. But then the Legislature passed laws you could sell them. Most of the school lands in eastern Nebraska have been sold, put into a fund. This board oversees the investment of that funds. And then out west in rural Nebraska, a lot of the lands are still school lands. They go up for a bid where a farmer's bid to rent it. This board manages the leases on those lands. They approve them. The money all comes together and it's invested, they oversee the investment of it and then it's, by statutes, it's prorated out per student, per K-12 student to each school district. And that's where the dispute is because most of the school lands are still out in rural Nebraska and the local counties and everybody has to take care of the roads and everything, but the money goes back east because there's more students back east.

KOLTERMAN: So does the money then-- once they form the lease with the person that's leasing the land, the money that comes back, does that go into the TEEOSA formula or it just--

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GROENE: Yes.

KOLTERMAN: --go into the General Fund?

GROENE: Yes, it's other funds.

KOLTERMAN: And do you have any knowledge of how many of those still exist?

GROENE: What do you mean?

KOLTERMAN: How many parcels of land are still being farmed?

GROENE: No, I don't know how many total acres. I could find it out for you.

KOLTERMAN: I was just curious. Thank you, I think it's important that most people--

GROENE: But the lands--

KOLTERMAN: --have a better understanding of what goes on with us as a state, because I do know that in my counties there still are some farmlands that people will lease, and there have been some sold, and then they gone out and bought some other land and reinvested it into maybe some better land, so. I was just curious. Thank you.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolterman and Senator Groene. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, every time a woman can stand up and say something to me that's a score for somebody. But I'm the one who mentioned that whenever a woman's issue, and that's the way I'll characterize it, and it will pertain to women, the Chamber empties completely. It's not completely emptied now, but they have no interest in this because confirmations are nothing. People can leave and have a good time. Now I'm here, but why should anybody receive praise for doing what he or she has agreed to do? That's why I say, cops shouldn't be made heroes when they do what they're paid to do. They are well paid. They have better retirements than practically anybody else. They can get away literally with murder. I say that again. They can get away literally with murder. And they know it. And they take advantage of it. But white people don't have to worry about it. They show this one white woman, and she said something to the cop. He said, we don't kill white people. We kill

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black people. And that was shown on television. Nothing was done to that cop. He knows what they do, and I know, and you think I'm not going to talk about it. I cannot stop them, but sometimes the pen, and on occasion, the spoken word, will be mightier than a sword. If I had a six gun, if I had an AR47, AK47, AR-15, Uzi, Uzi has gone out of style now. There was an Israeli military man who created this Uzi and it became a popular weapon among the criminal element of the American population. But even if I had an Uzi, I couldn't kill all the cops. I couldn't kill all of the cops in Omaha. And if I did, what difference would it make? They are interchangeable. They are replaceable. They do not formulate the policy. They carry out what they know white people want them to do. When they are being criticized as racists, they say they are not racist, they are not racist. But when they get involved in one of those obviously patently wrongful mishandlings of black people, you know what they'll say then? I'm just carrying out what the society dictates. This is the way the society sees black people, and he admits racism when it will help him. He denies it when to admit it would work against him. I pay attention to things. You all don't have to pay attention because it's not going to impact you. It's not going to impact me much longer at my age. I won't even be here. I don't know who will be here after I'm gone, but I know that I care about those who are coming up. There's no way that I can make things better for these coming up than they were for me. I'm still dealing with issues that I dealt with when I came here over 40 years ago. Things do not change when you have a racist society and they're dealing with a minority group for whom they have contempt, utter disregard, and place in the realm of things.

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: The kingdom of "thingdom" is where they want black people to reside. If I were saying the things that I say in behalf of black people I were saying in behalf of white people and white politicians, I'd be a hero in America. And the ones I'd be speaking for would say, we didn't know we made fools like him. What school did he come from? We need to have more black people go to that school. But I don't do and say what I do and say to prove anything to my foes other than they're not going to intimidate me. They're not going to overwhelm me with numbers, with misinformation, with threats. The things that put you all in a tizzy roll off my back like water off a duck's back. It shows me how weak you all are, how you're brave and strong when you've got a lot of company along with you. But when you don't have all that company and you have to stand, then you whine. Then you make appeal--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --to the people behind you. Did you say time?

SCHEER: Yes, I did, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you are the next in the queue, and this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, and you all are going to hear this for the rest of the session or a version of it, and I will give you historical examples. You know how they would punish a black man like me, one who they could put the lash to and he wouldn't change? They would take a barrel, you all know what a barrel is, and they would get long nails and they'd drive those nails from the outside, and if you looked in the barrel you could see the nails coming and filling the barrel. And they'd put that black man in the barrel. They'd close the lid, and these white Christian superior, intelligent, master racists, and they'd roll that barrel down the hill. They documented it themselves. They recommended these as methodologies to control the other black people by putting them in fear so that they wouldn't roll down the barrel, roll out the barrel. That's what they would do. Drawing and quartering, and Britain had two name-- that term applied to two activities. One was when they were taking people to be executed they would put them on what's like a sled, it didn't have wheels, and it would be dragged by a horse and that was called drawing. You're drawing the person to the place of execution. The other was more ominous. They would have horses going in different directions to which this person was tied, then they would strike the horses, and the horses would run, they would try to run. But some people had such strong tendons and ligaments that they wouldn't be torn asunder. So you know what the white Christians in Britain would do? They'd get somebody with a sword and chop at the shoulder and then that would be pulled off and the person would be torn, quartering. Quarter means in four parts. Sometimes they would spread eagle the person on the ground and have a horse attach to each limb, and they would go off in their respective directions. Oh, y'all didn't know white people did that? White Christians. Well, the Roman Catholics, who were the best of all, did it even better. They would pile up wood, tie somebody to it, and then set it afire and watch and listen while that person screamed in agony. As the flesh burned and fell off the bones, fluids would fall into the fire, and if any of it was fat, it would flare up and they really got a thrill out of that. Orgasms galore. They have related people watching others suffer tremendous pain got sexual gratification from it. You know where the information came from on these activities by the Catholic Church? They had scribes. They had Catholic brothers who wrote it down, just like the Nazis did when they were doing things to the Jews. And when they put the Nazis on trial, they brought the Nazis' diaries, their documents, their journals, the descriptions of the experiments, and they were condemned by their own words. Same with the Catholics, they wrote about it. And don't let them get a woman because they would spread eagle a woman and then have sex with her. These priests would do that. How much time do I have, Mr. President?

SCHEER: 1:05.

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CHAMBERS: You said one--

SCHEER: 1:05.

CHAMBERS: Okay. They had a movie showing what the white Christians did in Boston, one of those places, and I want somebody to correct me, where they had the witch trials. And this old man, they were going to subject him to pressing and they put-- they spread eagle him and they started stacking stones on him. And they heard him whispering something and they thought he was going to recant. So when they put their ear down to listen, guess what they heard him say? More stones. They couldn't squeeze out of him what they, in their Christian zeal, were attempting to do. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one else in the queue, Senator Groene, you're welcomed to close on the confirmation report, and he waives closing. The question before us is adoption of the Education confirmation report. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Have all voted that wish to? Thank you. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 39 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the report.

SCHEER: Confirmation report is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Business and Labor Committee would report on three appointments to the Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Senator Hansen, you're welcome to open on the confirmation reports.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and good afternoon, colleagues. The Business and Labor Committee is presenting three appointees to the Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board. The board holds hearings and provides advice to the Commissioner of Labor for the rules and regulations of them testing, construction and installation of new boilers required to be inspected by the Boiler Inspection Act. Mr. Scott Hollman is a new appointee representing those in the construction and repair of boilers. Mr. Hollman is a quality assurance manager for Cleaver-Brooks, which is a boiler company here in Lincoln. Thomas Phipps is a reappointment for the-- representing public safety. Mr. Phipps is the chief mechanical inspector for the city of Omaha. Steven Bley is also a reappointment and represents the owners and users of boilers. Mr. Bley is an engineer from the Omaha Public Power District and is from Nehawka. All three members of

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the committee were voted unanimously with one member absent. With that I would ask for your green vote in confirming these appointments. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hansen. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no objection to any of these people. And why somebody would want to be on whatever it is they're going on is beyond me, but it just shows there can be no arguing of tastes. Somebody does these things. Somebody has to do these things. Somebody will do these things. But to touch on what Senator Groene said about the Governor having such a small pool from which to select people. When I came down here, I like to remind you all who are new and think you know so much, that women were not appointed to boards and commissions as they are now. And I criticized it whenever they brought one of these confirmation lists and I'd say, where are the women? And then I'd point out what institutional discrimination is. You start out by appointing men. Then when time comes for reappointment the only ones you reappoint are men and you can say, well, there's no discrimination because they already had the position; but you stack the deck from the beginning. How many of you women, and I address it to women; women, listen up! And accuse me of sexism because I refer to women and know the difference between women and men and the role they hold. You all see that bathroom in there? That what used to be a coat room. They used to hang coats in that room. You know why there's a woman's bathroom? Oh, you didn't know they didn't have a bathroom for women? Shirley Marsh was a very strong woman. Now, she didn't take dictation or orders from the Governor and he told her what to say, then she'd pop up and say it. She stood strongly. When they had days when women should be recognized and people were nervous when that was done, Shirley Marsh would do the recognizing herself. To some people she was abrasive, she was caustic, she was assertive, and as you might imagine, that made her my kind of person. She didn't want to have to run all up and down the halls to find one of the women's bathroom at each corner. She would make a trooper stand outside the men's bathroom so no men would come in, and she would go in the men's bathroom. I was for Shirley Marsh. I liked Shirley Marsh. I miss Shirley Marsh. If she were here, she'd teach the women and the men a thing or two. So she decided that there ought to be a women's bathroom. And guess who supported her all together and would never be able to see the interior of that bathroom? I supported her, and I backed her on a lot of the issues that she raised. And they knew if they attacked Shirley she wouldn't be standing by herself, and she knew it. We didn't always get along. We were abrasive toward each other on occasion because of the issue. But on the big issues, we were like two peas in a pod. And that's why there's a women's bathroom. Not like somebody who is going to jump up and say, he said I'm a woman. Well, that's what you are. You ought to pick your battles, and don't make yourself look so silly and childish. You're being used. And I'm going to tell you while it's happening because your friends won't or some like to see you get your comeuppance because they don't think you ought to even be here. You all know that. You all talk about it, and the "Repelican" leadership outside of this body talks about it.

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SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Did you say a minute or time?

SCHEER: One minute, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Oh, thank you. Einstein, in trying to explain his theory of relativity, said that if you're in the presence of, he said a woman, then an hour can seem like an instant. But if you're sitting on a red hot stove, a second can seem like an eternity. Now, the time frames may be different, but that was the example that he used. Time drags for you all on leaden feet. For me it flies faster than Pegasus. You don't know who Pegasus was? Maybe I'll tell you about that the next time I'm recognized. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Kolterman, you're recognized.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if Senator Chambers would answer a couple questions for me.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, would you please yield?

CHAMBERS: With one proviso. Does "couple" mean two or is it an indefinite term that means any number?

KOLTERMAN: Any number.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Yes, I will.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you very much.

CHAMBERS: You're welcome.

KOLTERMAN: You know, we haven't talked-- usually we talk a little bit once in a while on the mike. We haven't talked for a while.

CHAMBERS: Right. You've been a good person and it hasn't been necessary.

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KOLTERMAN: Well, I've got a bill coming up again this afternoon. Are you going to give me amnesty on that?

CHAMBERS: Senator Kolterman, have I ever granted you amnesty this session?

KOLTERMAN: Absolutely, but not-- I can always ask for more, can't I?

CHAMBERS: May I have three seconds of your time to think about this?

KOLTERMAN: Well, in the meantime, I've got a couple other questions to ask you.

CHAMBERS: All right.

KOLTERMAN: You keep talking about, and by the way I knew Shirley Marsh, and she was definitely a wonderful lady and represented her district very well here in Lincoln, but you keep talking about how long you've been around here, so I just need to clear the air a little bit here. When you first got here did they have electricity?

CHAMBERS: Did they have what?

KOLTERMAN: Electricity.

CHAMBERS: Well, they used candles. I bet they were trying to save electricity, and they had torches also, but--

KOLTERMAN: How about telephones? Did they have telephones?

CHAMBERS: Well, they had people who would tell everything they heard.

KOLTERMAN: OK. And last but not least, did they have running water?

CHAMBERS: It depends on how fast the person who is bringing it to you could move.

KOLTERMAN: And now you've had 30 seconds for you to think about whether or not you're going to grant me amnesty.

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CHAMBERS: Bless you, my child. You have amnesty on your bill. You earned it.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you very much.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolterman and Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wouldn't advise anybody to try to use Senator Kolterman's style because when somebody creates a style, he or she is the only one who can make it work. Somebody else cannot. Some of you may have heard Mary Alonzo sing, Be my Love. Some of you may have heard different renderings of the Ava Maria. I could not render either one of those in a way that would cause people to think that I could sing. So I leave that kind of singing to those who can do it. Now Senator Kolterman is one of those people who will just kind of sit back and watch, observe, pay attention, and learn. Then he makes a practical application of it, and he gets what it is that he wants on occasion. Not always, but there's a greater chance of getting from point A to point B if you sit down and see how much territory you have to cover, what are the obstacles you might encounter. If there are some, how you can surmount them or should you try to go around them, under or over. He's that kind of person. And as a result, you might not even be conscious of Senator Kolterman being here until he stands up and says something. There are other people like Senator Briese who is like the breeze. Wherever it blows, you're aware of it. And he sits where I looking at an angle cannot help but look at him. And I'm glad to see that Senator Briese is in a nice mood, because after while he and I are going to discuss a bill, LB590, and it's going to be the first one after Senator Gragert's bill to experience the Chambers' methodology. And I'm giving you a heads up. There are some bills that I'm going to take some time on. I told you that's what I was going to do. And when you all were exalting because a few of you could talk long enough to keep bills from getting a vote, I said you're teaching me the way you want this thing to be done, and I am learning. And now it's examination time. I have to demonstrate not only how much I have learned, but how well I have learned it, and if I know how to act on it in the way that I said that I would. I've said, experience is the best teacher, and some will have no other. Well, you're going to find out that when I say I'm going to take time, I'm going to do it. I won't get tired. My mind will not be changed, because I didn't arrive at that conclusion in a heat and a rush. And as soon as the heat dies down, my relentlessness goes away. As Popeye said, I yam what I yam, and that's all that I yam, and it's what I shall always be. If I tell you a hen dips snuff, look under her left wing and you'll find tobacco stains, Senator Lowe, and when I tell you, all of you, that I'm going to take time, I will do it. And you can all leave this Chamber, all of you, and I will still do what it is I intend to do. It's a self-imposed obligation. You all have to know that there's at least one person among you who's not going to get into such a good mood that all the wrongful things you all do through commission and omission will be overlooked and allowed to slide by. That is not the way I operate. I think that being in this Legislature is what has kept me alive as long as I've been alive.

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SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Not walking bent over, not hobbling, not having aches and pains, able to run up the stairs, overtake young people and pass them and apologize, telling them I don't have as much time left on the earth so I have to move quicker to get where I'm going, and you can take your time. It's you all, you all make me strong. I cannot die and let you all just go on doing what you're doing and not have some kind of little price to pay. When I work hard, you don't have to do anything. You've got your votes, you think, and you probably have. But you're going to get those votes when I decide that I'm going to let you take them. If you have the kind of bill that can assure you of 33 votes, the Speaker will bring you back, and then I'll make you get that again.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Like you did when you were reigning. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you're recognized and this is your third time.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Even I did not anticipate when we started this morning that at 2:51 p.m. we would still be on confirmations. We haven't dealt with one single bill yet. Open your book to the first bill, it might be a Revisor's bill, number one. But look at all of the opportunities for amendments and motions. I can have a Grammarian's holiday with the trash legislation that comes before us just making grammatical suggestions. And some of them I will not offer as amendments, which I intend to have voted on. Others I'll take a vote, then I'll move to reconsider. And I think you all ought to just sit back and not say anything and see whether I, by myself, can take a bill three hours without anybody else saying anything. If there's only one word in that bill, what can I do with that word for three hours? Now, if there were 26 words, then each word could be subject of an amendment. But if there's one word I'd have to try to figure out how to amend it 26 times, huh. And there are more than 26 words in the English language, and I know how to discuss more than 26 words. And I'll have some of you listening, some of you marveling, some of you furious, but there's nothing you can do about it. And you all set this tone. When you had everything your way in the early days and there were bills that you conservatives, you so-called conservatives, didn't like. Oh you glory, because you had it your way, and you were so pleased with yourselves, so proud of yourselves because you could talk until a bill was taken off the agenda and the introducer couldn't get 33 votes. Well, I was watching. Do you know that there's a relationship between Mary and a woman named Elizabeth in the New Testament? Now, I see "Deacon Erdman" under the balcony trying to be quiet and stay out of sight, but when he comes to the "Bible" he knows a thing or two, and he knows about Mary and Elizabeth. But one of them, one of them had this comment made about her: She kept these things

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and pondered them in her heart. She pondered them in her heart. So while you all were doing your dirt because you had the numbers and you thought you would always have it your way, I was pondering these things, since I don't have a heart, in my brain, in this tired, old 40-some-odd year-old-- 80 some-odd-year-old brain. See there, I said 40 and it should have been 80. It's failing me already. I might just get up here and do a parody of the way we old folks are supposed to be. And I can do it because I, myself, am old. I tell people, don't call me senior. Don't call me an elder. I am o-l-d. I am old. And that is a badge of honor for me, for a black man with my attitude and the way I've conducted myself to have survived 82 years when white people couldn't think of a way to erase me, that's an achievement in and of itself. I still have my mind. I can still walk around. Senator-- oh, McCollister--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: He's one who can do some pushups, but it would be wrong to challenge him now because he's-- one of his legs is kind of under the weather. That would be unfair advantage. But I can do a pushup or two. I can do three or four chinups. I can lift my own weight, and so can everybody in here. Whenever you sit down in a chair and you get up. See. Don't you feel better now? You're doing things you didn't even know. That's what an inspirational speaker does. Makes you feel that where you are and what you're doing makes you a worthwhile person. And when you get that little bit of glimmer willing to acknowledge that you are something and somebody when everybody has tried to make you into a cipher, then that might give you an inspiration and you will go do the things you can do. I've been trying all these years to stimulate white people to do what I was taught as a child that they could do. To get them to show me what it means to be a member of the master race. I wanted to see the master race--

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: --in action. And I have not seen it.

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Hansen, you're welcome to close on the committee confirmation.

M. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, again. Just real quick colleagues, these are three appointments to the Boiler Safety Code Advisory Board. One is a new appointee,

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Mr. Scott Hollman who is from Lincoln, and two are reappointees, Mr. Thomas Phipps from Omaha, and Mr. Steven Bley from Nehawka. I would recommend their confirmation as they came out unanimous with one member absent of the Business and Labor Committee. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hansen. The question is the adoption of the report offered by Business and Labor Committee. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 37 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of the confirmation report.

SCHEER: Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. The Retirement Systems Committee will meet in Room 2022 at 3:00; Retirement at 3:00 in Room 2022. New resolution: Senator Williams offers LR76, and that will be laid over at this time, Mr. President. That's all that I have.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Next item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Select File: Senator Slama, LB619. I have E&R amendments first of all.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB619 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. It is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kolowski would move to amend with AM957.

SCHEER: Senator Kolowski, you're welcome to open on your amendment. We'll pass over that amendment. Next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wayne would move to bracket the bill until June 1 of 2019.

SCHEER: Senator Wayne, you're welcome to open on your motion.

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WAYNE: Yes, I would like to withdrawal that motion.

SCHEER: Without objection, so done. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I'm back to Senator Kolowski's amendment, AM957.

SCHEER: I think he's in Retirement. They're going to go return him. Please stand at ease for a few seconds.

EASE

SCHEER: Senator Kolowski, you're welcome to open on AM957.

KOLOWSKI: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. Mr. Chairman, would you give me the instructions again, please?

SCHEER: You're welcome to open on AM957.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you very much. AM957 is to address the concerns Senator Groene stated on General File about school personnel getting paid by an insurance company. The services we are talking about that are performed by school personnel are identification of student needs and then alerting parents to that observation-- alerting, excuse me, alerting parents to that observation. These services are not billable by definition. The parents are responsible for scheduling the mental health treatment. LB619 simply states that if a mental health provider goes to a school building to see a student, the student's insurance coverage cannot deny coverage of a service solely on the basis of the location. So stating that insurance companies are not required to pay for services provided by an individual employed by or under contract with the school district, or an educational service unit is a minor wording change that clearly states this intent. I encourage you to support AM957 and LB619.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. Senator Williams, you're recognized.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I just would state that this piece of legislation was heard in front of the Banking Committee early in March. It had no opposition testimony, came out of committee on an 8-0 committee vote. I appreciate the questions we originally had on General File and appreciate the concerns that Senator Groene and others had, and they are

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working with Senator Kolowski to find a suitable solution. So with that I would certainly urge your support of AM957 and the underlying bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Williams. Senator Groene, you're recognized.

GROENE: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate working with Senator Kolowski and Senator Williams, because at the introduction of the bill, they both answered questions that there was no intent that the ESU or a school district would start a service of mental health, psychology, just or-- and then offer diagnosis and then bill them and then start collecting insurance, but it wasn't clear. And Senator Kolowski and Senator Williams said that was not the intent at all, it was the private insurance companies with private individuals that if the psychologist or mental health professional was willing to go to the school, and the school provided a room that the services could be, so it was less time for the student out of the classroom. Senator Kolowski wrote a very clear amendment that clarifies it. And I am 100 percent in agreement with AM957 and LB619. It felt good to work together as a team of senators that accomplished this, and I appreciate it.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Groene. Seeing no others in the queue, Senator Kolowski, you're welcome to close on AM957.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, LB619 was unanimously advanced from committee. Proponents at the hearing included several school districts, several education organizations, and two insurance companies. The revised fiscal note shows no cost. Right up to today, I would also share with you, if you look at the cover story in the Omaha World-Herald today about the insurance issue with mental health services to schools and communities, it's the cover story, which has been a popular issue in the last couple of years. I've read a number of articles on the issue of the mental health and delivery of services such as this. Thank you very much.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolowski. The question before us is adoption of AM957. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Kolowski's amendment.

SCHEER: AM957 is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

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SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB619 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB619 is advanced. Oh, excuse me, LB-- yes, LB619 is advanced. Mr. Clerk, next item.

CLERK: Senator Slama, LB34, I have E&R amendments, first of all.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB34 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Kolterman would move to amend with AM915.

SCHEER: Senator Kolterman, you are welcome to open on AM915.

KOLTERMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. President. AM915 is purely a technical amendment suggested by E&R. It merely strikes three words that are redundant, does not change the substance or intent of the bill. I would ask for your approval of this amendment.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Kolterman. Seeing no one wishing to speak, Senator Kolterman is welcome to close. He waives closing. The question before us is adoption of AM915. All those in favor please vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record. One moment, please. Mr. Clerk. Please record.

CLERK: 40 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Kolterman's amendment.

SCHEER: AM915 is adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Slama for a motion.

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SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that LB34 be advanced to E&R for engrossing.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. LB34 is advanced. Next item.

CLERK: Senator Kolterman, do you want to have your committee now? Mr. President, Retirement Systems will now meet in Room 2022; Retirement in Room 2022.

SCHEER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Slama, E&R amendments, first of all, to LB243.

SCHEER: Senator Slama for a motion.

SLAMA: Mr. President, I move that the E&R amendments to LB243 be adopted.

SCHEER: Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor please say aye. All those opposed say nay. ER57 is adopted.

CLERK: Senator Hughes would move to amend with AM937.

SCHEER: Senator Hughes, you're welcome to open on AM937.

HUGHES: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, colleagues. My amendment is very, very simple. In the bill it does state that the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee and the Chairman of the Ag Committee will also be members of the Healthy Soils Task Force. What my amendment does just says "or their designee" can do that so the Chairman, if they're unavailable, they can appoint someone from their committee to do that. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Hughes. Senator Chambers, you're welcome-- you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I would like to divide the question and consider each Chairperson as a separate entity.

SCHEER: They are easily divisible, so ordered. Oh, excuse me. Senator Chambers, would you please come forward? Senator Chambers, my information that you're wishing to withdraw that?

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CHAMBERS: Yes.

SCHEER: So ordered. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Hughes a question.

SCHEER: Senator Hughes, would you please yield?

HUGHES: Of course.

CHAMBERS: Senator Hughes, when I listened carefully to what you said, you mentioned the Chairpersons of two committees. When I went up and looked at the actual wording, there is no mention in that amendment as drafted any chairperson. It talks about certain lines. So would you explain what Chairperson-- first, tell which two Chairpersons you mentioned, then give the relevance of that to the amendment that's up there now?

HUGHES: In-- in the bill, in the lines that were referenced in my amendment, it does talk about the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee and the Chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, would be members of this Healthy Soils Task Force. We did not spell them out in the amendment, we just included the line and after, include "or their designee." I think after "Chairman," I think. I don't have the amendment in front of me. I apologize.

CHAMBERS: I accept what you said. But, really, I'm not too pleased with the Chairperson of either committee. Senator Halloran is the Chairperson of the Ag Committee, which in my parlance stands for "aggravation and agony," and my bill, which probably should have gone to Judiciary because it relates to going on people's property without notice, having them haled into court and charged with offenses, subjected to different methodologies by which their land can be taken from them, and it went to the Ag Committee. There are conservatives on that committee. All of this heavy-handed government overreach did not make those people any difference because the one who brought the bill was somebody they have no use for. So when I hear Senator Halloran again talk about calling a convention because the federal government spends too much money, I'm not going to believe he means that at all, he's just trying to get some airtime. And I don't believe these so-called conservatives who talk about heavy-handed government and overreach. When the county board, without giving you notice, can send people on your land to poison prairie dogs, if that's not government overreach, I don't know what it is. That's what my bill would stop. If one of these so-called conservatives had the sense to bring it, you would have accepted it. It's something that never should have gotten into the law in the first

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place. But before they do that, they're supposed to give you notice. But then they erase that by saying even if you don't get any notice, all this can happen: they can come on your land; if they destroy crops, if they do damage to your land or anything else, they are immune from liability. You never knew who they were, you don't know what they're doing there. Then they can spread poison, and you cannot interfere, because you're interfering with a government operation if you do that, but you don't know they're from the government. These are people who could be marauders, they could be trespassers,--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --they could be thieves, but they can come on your land and do those things and somebody like Senator Halloran who calls himself a conservative likes that. No, he doesn't like it, but he dislikes me more than he dislikes his government overreach. So this session, I'm going to have a chance to discuss bills, and then the other gentleman who is head of the Natural Resources Committee, he'll never let my bill out that would prevent the Game & Parks Commission to authorize mountain lion hunts. I'm going to turn on my light. I know my time's just about out.

SCHEER: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You're next in the queue. You're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. So, now I begin; not like Senator Wayne, where a point is reached where I will say, well, you've done as much as you can or as much as you will or what I want. There's now no negotiation. There is no accord that can be reached. Senator Halloran has done his dirt. Senator Hughes has done his dirt. And now I'm going to try to bring a clean thing out of an unclean thing. I have marked some bills, but I didn't tell you which ones they are in advance, but you'll find out. This is one of them. This bill is bad on its own. I didn't think that at first because I had attributed too much integrity to people who supported it. I did listen to what Senator Hughes had to say about the bill and why it's really not needed. Just because I find somebody to have done something that I find obnoxious doesn't mean I consider the person obnoxious and everything that person does to be obnoxious, and that's how I learn. Even the people that I don't like know something that I don't know, every one of them. If they've got children, their children like them and I don't know why. That's something I don't know about them. So now I'm just going to take my time, and, in a leisurely fashion, show how this is done. I'm not going to run any of these bills to earth, I'm going to stroll. You might analogize it to the death by a thousand cuts, or 10,000 cuts, or a million cuts. Once you get above the number 10, it doesn't matter how many you add after that. I can take the time. Time. Time. Every time I hear something like that, it makes me think of a rhyme. Edgar Allan Poe had written one called "The Bells" and he said at one of the points in the poem, keeping time, time, time in a sort of runic rhyme to the tintinnabulation of the bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, bells, to the jingling and

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the tinkling of the bells. He was talking about the sledges with the bells, silver bells, what a world of merriment, and on and on. And I could go on and on. But that's too easy. I'm going to take time, as I stated that I would do. I cannot make you all do as you should do, but I can make you pay when you don't. And the only thing I can exact from you in this Legislature is time. Can I do this for 40-some-odd days? Well, there was rain for 40 days and 40 nights without stopping. The people got worried, but the rain kept dropping. Noah sent out a raven, he sent out a dove, but the water great god kept coming from above. The people came, and they wanted to get on Noah's ark, and they didn't believe Noah when he said a change is going to come in the climate, something you never saw before is going to happen. And they laughed at him like the "Repelicans" and Donald Trump the crazy man has people laughing. So when the rain began to fall, people didn't think anything of it. Then it got ankle deep, shin deep,--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --knee deep, thigh deep, hip deep, belly deep, then they began to worry. So they came to Noah, and they knocked on his door; [knocking], Noah, Noah, let me come in. Noah looked out and said, not by the hair of my chiny-chin-chin. And they cried and they begged and they pleaded. And although they couldn't get on the ark, Noah brought the animals two by two: the oxen, the fox, and the kangaroo. But as for you human beings, stay out there. You had warning. You chose to ignore it. Now, this is a recompense of your reward. This is what you get for not listening. You had the opportunity, and you chose to ignore it. I tried to reason with you all. But if you won't accept warning, you're not going to listen to reason. And I told you, as you did it on each of those bills, you are setting the tone for the rest of the session.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: There will be bills that you care about-- did you say time?

SCHEER: Time, Senator. Yes, Senator. Senator Chambers, you are in the queue, and this is your third time at the mike.

CHAMBERS: On this one. Thank you, Mr. President. So we're with Noah on the ark. How many of you all believe that he had two of every kind of animal on the ark? The question that ought to be asked before you get to that is how many animals were there on the earth? The Bible doesn't tell you any number of animals. There may have only been two, six. You look at the plenitude of wildlife now, and you think that's how many different species were there then. That ain't necessarily so. Just like you think Jesus is the only one who could feed 5,000 with three loaves of bread and some little fishes. It just said 5,000. It didn't say 5,000 what. He fed 5,000 ants, which anybody could do. I can go out here and find an ant colony, and I can feed 5,000; 10,000,

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however many of them are there. You don't read the "Bibble." You project from your position of lack of knowledge to make something a certain way when that is not contained in the words that you're reading. That's why Gershwin wrote the things that you're liable to read in the Bible, they ain't necessarily so. Jonah, he lived in a whale. Jonah, he lived in a whale. He made his home in that fish's abdomen. Jonah, he lived in a whale. A whale is not a fish, is it? They didn't even get that right. So which is wrong, the "Bibble" which says a great fish, or those who came after and said it was a whale? Which is right? You don't even know. You don't know which one it was based on what I say. Ignorance rules this society. The things that they will burn somebody at the stake for, such as the "Bibble," they don't even know what's in it, don't even know what's in it, or they would have read where Jesus said: you know not what spirit you are of. You pulling all this crazy stuff; these so-called Christians who are going for Donald Trump. If he had read the "Bibble," he would have seen that Jesus had been tempted by the devil. God and the devil had conversations. Jesus and the devil had conversations. And that's just kind of a parody because Jesus and the devil were there. The scripture quotes the devil, and the devil quotes scripture. That's tit for tat, measure for measure, even-steven, and you all get upset when somebody says the "Bibble" is a bunch of fairy tales. There's a guy named H.L. Mencken, he wrote for the Baltimore Sun many years ago. He was known as a great skeptic, mixed with cynicism, and he said he didn't believe in God for the same reason that he didn't believe in Mother Goose. Now maybe H.L. Mencken said that or maybe Clarence Darrow said it. Clarence Darrow was one who made a fool out of you-all's hero. Your hero had given a speech that was called--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --the Cross of Gold speech, and people don't even know what it said. But they tie this person who ran for President, couldn't win, had no chance, and he contested with Darrow in what was called the Monkey Trial, they were arguing about evolution. The phraseology from this Nebraskan was: you shall not push-- or torture labor with this cross of gold-- or you will not place this cross of gold on labor's brow. They were talking about the gold standard, not literal gold, not like a cross, not like a crown, none of that. But it's called the Cross of Gold speech. And who even knows what it said? Who even cares? That's why people in this society are so easy to take advantage of.

SCHEER: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. That was my third time, correct?

SCHEER: Yes, it was, Senator. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Hughes, you're welcome to close. He waives closing on AM937. The question before us is adoption of AM937. All those in favor please vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have all voted that wish to? Please record.

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CLERK: 41 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Hughes's amendment.

SCHEER: AM937 is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend with AM1142.

SCHEER: Senator Chambers, you're welcome to open on AM1142.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. You don't put a cross on somebody's head. He didn't say: press down this-- if I told you it's the Cross of Gold speech, it had something to do with a cross. You shall not crucify labor on this cross of gold. That's what it said. But you all don't pay attention and it doesn't matter. I believe in second chances. I'm giving this body a second chance to do the right thing. I will tell you what this amendment consists of. First of all, it says "strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and insert the following new sections." So you'd get rid of the original green copy, you'd get rid of Senator Hughes's amendment, and if there are others adopted, they're all gone. And what would be inserted is the contents of Senator Hunt's original bill dealing with SNAP. That's what I'm doing. This is the operative language that would exist, if anybody's paying attention, and you may have this on your gadget. I still use the paper. On page 4, starting in line 6, "except as otherwise provided in subdivision (c) of this subsection, a person convicted of a felony involving the possession or use of a controlled substance shall only be eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits if such person, (i) has completed her or his sentence for such felony including any term of parole, probation, or post-release supervision, or (ii) is serving a term of parole, probation, or post-release supervision for such felony." Then we come down to line-- beginning in line 18, and through lines 25, this language would be stricken from the existing law: a person with one or two felony convictions for the possession or use of a controlled substance shall only be eligible to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program benefits under this subsection if he or she is participating in or has completed a state-licensed or nationally accredited substance abuse treatment program since the date of conviction. The determination of such participation or completion shall be made by the treatment provider administering the program." Now, that is the original of what we wanted. Or is it? Hmm. Now I've got your interest, haven't I? We're on LB243. And I am inserting the wording of Senator Hunt's original bill. I have two amendments. One, which is the one we're discussing now, which I'm discussing, LB1142, but I knew you wouldn't pay attention, so what I read to you was the amendment that I'm offering to this amendment, because I want to be able to take a lot of time, Senator Gragert. You all did not let Senator Hunt get a vote on her bill, so now the day of reckoning comes. What I read to you was the amendment to my amendment. Now let me read to you the amendment. Who paid attention? All her bill did was to remove some language from the statute. If you go to page 4, which you're not going to do, but this is for the record-- oh, and I can digress a lot. Do you see how much time I took off the clock by reading

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the wrong amendment? And I-- both of the amendments are mine. And I got 'em mixed up. You can say touche to me, if you would have paid attention. I know you don't pay attention. I know you. You don't even care what I'm saying. But pretty soon you're going to consider what I'm doing, which is taking time. Time. Time. As I said I would. And I want to see if somebody's smart enough to stop me. I'll tell you how you can stop me today. It's a motion that's not debatable. The Speaker would have an opportunity to speak, then say what needs to be said, and it takes priority over every other motion. You can move to adjourn, and you know how that would upset me. I never agree to adjourn. Ever. Just so you'll have something when you get very frustrated, on page 4 of my amendment, you would strike everything out of the bill. That's what has to be done. I could not offer an amendment to his bill because it would not be germane. What I'm offering is not germane to what his original bill does, so this would strike everything. And when you strike everything from a bill, you're not attaching it to anything. All that is left is the number, and you can put anything under that number you choose. An amendment to his bill of the kind I'm offering would not be germane and it couldn't be taken up. So I want to do it according to the rules as I said I would play by. So on page 4, this is the language we would strike. That's all her bill did originally. And you all didn't want her to have a vote. But that bill, that language was too rich for some people's blood around here. So recognizing that my good friend whom I deeply respect, Senator Hunt, was willing to try to reach an accord with the opponents. And I told her if you've got the votes, don't do all that, it's a waste of time, it will weaken the bill, just go ahead and move the bill. But she doesn't operate like I do, and she wanted to reach out to the people who said they had some good-faith opposition to her bill. That was the time when Senator Geist fooled all of us and stood up and talked about the need to better understand addiction, how it operates, what it does to people, what it causes people to do. She mentioned something about drug courts, how they have graduations, how inspiring they are, and I'm paraphrasing--I want to make that clear--and that when they have a graduation, if some people wanted to be accompanied-- wanted her to accompany them, she would do that. And I think that I may have even, when I spoke, said that I had to give her some credit for the comments that she made. And I never dreamed, and you wouldn't have been able to make me believe--

SCHEER: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --that somebody who said all those wonderful things in the face of some people who were opposed to the bill would sit and not vote after having tricked Senator Hunt into trusting her, and Senator Arch, in drafting an amendment that they had no intention of supporting. That's the trickery, the treachery done in this place. I'm going to turn on my light, because this time is going to be mine.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Gragert, you're recognized.

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GRAGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to stand, a point of order. I don't believe the amendment that Senator Chambers has got here is germane to the bill, my bill as a Healthy Soils Task Force. The bill that he's bringing to amend my bill is actually SNAP. I don't see where that really has any relevance to my Healthy Soil Task Force bill, which is just to coordinate and communicate information that will, you know, be a help to other people, so, and as far as the farming community. So, thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Gragert. Senator Gragert is challenging the germaneness. Senator Chambers, can you explain why your amendment is germane?

CHAMBERS: Mr. President, I'm going by the way things have been done around here for generations. They probably were doing it even before I even came. To avoid the argument of non-germaneness, everything is stripped out of that bill. There have even been some court cases on this tactic, and it was acknowledged that had an attempt been made to attach this, in this material, to the existing bill, it would have been, indeed, germane. But if you remove everything from that bill, then all that's left is the number. And this that is being done here has been done before, and therefore I don't think it violates the germaneness rule.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. In reviewing the rule on germaneness, I rule that your amendment is not germane.

CHAMBERS: I would challenge the Chair.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You are recognized to speak on that. Each member will have an opportunity to speak one time on overruling the Chair.

CHAMBERS: Thank you. And Mr. President, I'm going to try this same thing on other bills. And, frankly, I don't care what the ruling is. With the amount of information and material in Senator Gragert's bill, it will be easier for me to just amend it than to do what I was doing. The point I wanted to make was the treachery dealt with-- I mean engaged in, in dealing with Senator Hunt's bill. We have before us now a bill that was amended by Senator Hughes. A committee amendment by the Agriculture Committee was adopted. And that amendment has three pages. And I think Senator Gragert might have stepped out of the frying pan into the fire, because it's going to be much easier for me to amend that committee amendment than it was to go through all that I was offering with mine. I knew that you would not accept it. But as I write out these other amendments, then I'll take much more time. And even if somebody would try to find a way to stop other people from talking, all you will force me to do is go after other bills on the agenda, and I assure you that that's what I will do. And you're going to find out that Senator Gragert has not done you a favor. A ruling is what the Legislature, by majority of those who are here and

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voting, I imagine, would say it is. So if you don't want me to continue trying to get you to adopt Senator Hunt's bill as a replacement for this one, that will not stop me from talking about it, and all it will have done is to inflame me. So you think it makes me any difference what I talk about? If we can talk as long as, Senator Gragert, about confirmations, as we did, imagine how long I can talk about your bill? And who brought up the issue of germaneness in the first place? I would like to ask Senator Gragert a question, if he would yield.

WILLIAMS: Senator Gragert, would you yield?

GRAGERT: Sure.

CHAMBERS: Senator Gragert, who brought up the issue of germaneness during this discussion?

GRAGERT: Uh, I was informed of the germaneness from Senator Slama.

CHAMBERS: Senator Slama? Did you hear my question?

GRAGERT: Maybe you ought to repeat it.

CHAMBERS: Who first brought up the matter of germaneness?

GRAGERT: Senator Chambers, you did.

CHAMBERS: And somebody who thought they were smart then told you, look, here it is in the Rule Book. Why were you blinded to the idea-- to the fact that I brought it up? I discussed it. You weren't paying attention to me, were you?

GRAGERT: I'm trying to pay attention to you, yes.

CHAMBERS: That's not the question. You didn't pay attention to me.

GRAGERT: I must have missed that part of it.

CHAMBERS: And then Senator Slama, your good friend, the seatmate, awakened you to the issue of germaneness.

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WILLIAMS: One minute.

GRAGERT: That's true.

CHAMBERS: Did you-- did she show you the book, and you read what was in the book, or you took her word for it?

GRAGERT: No, I seen the book here.

CHAMBERS: Did you read it?

GRAGERT: I read the-- briefly read it, that's correct.

CHAMBERS: Did you read it? What I mean, did you read all of the rule?

GRAGERT: No, I didn't read the entire--

CHAMBERS: But you read enough, and having been told by "Scholar Slama" what the rules are, you took her interpretation?

GRAGERT: Yes, sir.

CHAMBERS: This gives me an opportunity to discuss this for a while. So I don't care what we discuss. And, Mr. President, I'm going to turn on my light because I don't expect others to participate in this discussion. I mean, they're welcome to, but I think it's too rich for their blood.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Gragert. Senator Chambers, you're only allowed to speak one time on a motion to overrule the Chair. There is no one else in the queue, so, Senator Chambers, you are recognized to close on your motion to overrule the Chair.

CHAMBERS: So my one-- so it's clear for everybody, since we're doing some instruction in the rules, your opening constitutes the one time that you can speak if you're moving to overrule the Chair, is that correct?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

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CHAMBERS: And I want that to be clear to everybody. And now nobody has chosen to speak, so it's my opportunity to close. Correct?

WILLIAMS: That is correct.

CHAMBERS: How much time do I have to close?

WILLIAMS: 4 minutes and 30 seconds.

CHAMBERS: You mean that discussion you and I had was marked against me?

WILLIAMS: Yes, it was.

CHAMBERS: I'm not going to ask the Chair to yield, because the Chair does not have to do that when the Chair is presiding. But I'm just going to show that you're out of the skillet into the fire. There are so many motions that can be made, so many amendments that can be offered. And I may as well give a clinic on how to do this. And Senator Gragert, you can take advice from Senator Slama, and she can tell you how to defeat everything that I'm bringing up there I'm sure. I have a very thick pad of paper. If I want to, I can just stand here and cogitate for my entire time, one of those people who likes to think before speaking. And depending on the seriousness of an issue, more thought may be required than in others. However, when you're dealing with an audience that is not paying attention, and if they pay attention, they don't understand, it doesn't matter whether you take time and think and say something sensible or just stand up and say cock-a-doodle-doo. It matters not. But I'm going to do some serious discussing today. And I'm going to offer this amendment to other bills. And whoever is in the Chair will have to rule it out of order. But I still will have my chance to open on my amendment. And maybe it will be germane, who knows. But I will tip Senator Gragert off to the next motion, and that's to indefinitely postpone the bill. And as the introducer, you can agree to take it up now or lay it over. I'm sure Senator Slama will tell you-- take it up now, take it up now. And that's what he will say. The Chair will say: Senator Gragert. And Senator Gragert will stand up and say: take it up now, take it up now; and then look for that smile of approval. And here's what he'll see: oh, my gosh! And I didn't even study drama; I study you all. And all I'm doing is taking time. I might even touch on some of the things that Senator Hughes raised the other day which showed the lack of necessity for this bill.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

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CHAMBERS: But you all don't care about that. I wonder if a motion to indefinitely postpone is unsuccessful if it can be reconsidered. So I think we need to try all these things today and just see what we shall see. But I will tell-- this is Senator Gragert-- that a reconsideration motion having failed, it cannot be reconsidered. You knew that already? Well, you're nodding yes. You trust me? No, he said no to both of them. He's confused now. That is what we're doing here today. And as Frank Sinatra said, I'm going to do it my way. So, Mr. President--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: I would ask for a call of the house and then a roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: There's been a request to place the house under call. All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 4 nays to place the house under call.

WILLIAMS: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Vargas, would you please check in. Senators Bolz and Lindstrom, please check in. Members, we are voting on overriding the Chair. This motion requires a majority of those present, which will be 24, and there's been a request to do a roll call vote. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 0 ayes, 39 nays on the motion to overrule the Chair.

WILLIAMS: The motion to overrule the Chair fails. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, you have a motion?

CLERK: I do, Mr. President. The next motion on the bill, Senator Chambers would move to indefinitely postpone LB243. Senator Gragert, as the introducer, you have the option to take that motion up or lay the bill over.

GRAGERT: I'll take the motion up.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Gragert. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have the opportunity to open, speak two more times, and then close, I imagine. And then I'm going to tell Senator Gragert and the rest of you all what I'm going to do. I'm going to move to strike Section 1 from the committee amendment, and I'm going to discuss all my times, and I'm going to reconsider every vote. I'm going to move to strike Section 2, and I'm going to speak all of my times, then move to reconsider that. Then I've got some priority motions I'm going to make. So I don't care what time we stay here. Why don't we do something that has never been done before the first full day of debate? Why don't we put Senator Chambers, the oldest man on this floor, to the test and see if he can go 'til midnight? Why don't we do that? How many of you all want to stay 'til midnight? Raise your hand. Some people don't have a life. [LAUGH] But it would be a lively time around here. There will be a bit of lightheartedness, a bit of seriousness, and I'm going to start by reading what I label "ErnieGram" Number 51. It's an Omaha World-Herald article dated March 28, 2019, page 1-b. It's got these as parts of a headline: Nebraska Legislature, bill to offer food stamps to some drug felons fails. Then you can call this a subhead, if you'd like to: Motion to end filibuster fails as several votes drop away under pressure from Ricketts administration. This was written by Martha Stoddard: Political pressure sank a bill Wednesday that would have allowed some convicted drug users to qualify for food assistance. LB169, introduced by State Senator Megan Hunt of Omaha, fell short of a filibuster-ending cloture motion-- on a filibuster-ending cloture motion. If I happen to misread, I'll just go back and re-read to make sure I get it correct. The motion needed 33 votes to succeed, but only 28 senators voted for the motion, and 16 voted against it, with 5 senators abstaining. Supporters had argued that the bill would help former inmates reintegrate into society and stay out of prison. Opponents said drug users should work rather than get government handouts, unlike farmers. Courts-- counts taken by supporters last week showed there were enough votes to overcome a filibuster and potential veto. But several votes dropped away under pressure from Governor Pete Ricketts' administration, which opposed the bill. Everybody knows you all folded under the Governor's pressure, and you're identified, we know who you weak-kneed, spineless, gutless individuals are whose word mean zero, less than zero. That was a digression. Back to the article: Four senators who had worked on a compromise amendment or who had voted to send the bill out of committee abstained Wednesday. You went on record giving your word, and then the Governor made you back off. You gave God the finger, because God knows that you told a lie. Now we all know that you're liars. You're spineless. You're gutless. Faithless. Going back to the article, and by the way, here I am, counteract what I say; if you don't like it, do like Senator Slama, who is instructing Senator Gragert what to do. She stood up to me. You all stand up to me. I wish. Afterward, Hunt said she plans to keep working on the issue in future years. The failed cloture vote means the bill likely will not be taken up again this year. Then I put in parenthesis-- down in the margin: don't be so sure. She said she was proud of getting the legislation further than previous attempts and proud of the compromise reached on the bill. She has a reason to be proud. She just didn't know what she was dealing with. How many of you have heard the term "boomslang?" "Boom" is an African word for "tree"; "slang" is a word for "snake." A boomslang is a tree snake. And it is

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highly venomous. Senator Hunt had noted previously that other felons including rapists, robbers, and murderers, face no such bar to getting food assistance. So this faithless four felt that rapists-- those who rape little children, those who participate in gang rapes-- should be allowed these benefits. Senator Lowe feels the same way. Robbers and murderers, but somebody who has had an addiction for drugs and was convicted just of possession is treated worse than a child rapist, a child murderer, a wife beater, a wife murderer. And some of these people who work with Senator Hunt profess to be Christians, I think. Well, if they make that profession, you know they are hypocrites. Continuing: As introduced, LB169 would have allowed people convicted of drug felonies to get Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits commonly called food stamps as long as they were complying with probation, parole, or post-release supervision. The compromise, which this faithless four, the compromise would have limited such benefits to people convicted once or twice of drug possession or use as long as they were complying with probation, parole or post-release supervision. Current law sets a higher standard for those people requiring them to go through a state licensed or nationally accredited substance abuse treatment program. As in current law, the compromise amendment would have maintained a permanent prohibition on food stamps for people convicted of drug distribution or with three or more convictions for drug possession or use. Senator Andrew La Grone, he said with a groan, I just threw that in, you know, for comic relief. He is a comical fellow. Senator Andrew La Grone of Gretna was among the bill's opponents. He said the issue is about providing taxpayer-funded benefits to drug users, a proposition that he said he could not support. Oh, such a sterling moral person, highest morals, he cannot support it. Senator La Grone said no. His morals are too high for that. Sometimes these people who are so holy in the light, you better not follow them when they enter the dark.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: La Grone said the issue is about providing the taxpayer-funded benefits to drug users, a proposition that he said he could not support. SNAP is federally funded, not state funded. He said, well, taxpayers pay into the fund from which federal funds are drawn for these programs. And they also pay into that money that gives price support to farmers who are very inefficient and lazy. But he's such a hypocrite on top of everything else. I'm going to put my light on again. Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Gragert, you are recognized to respond to Senator Chambers' motion to indefinitely postpone LB243.

GRAGERT: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone and urge your vote to advance LB243. Thank you.

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WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Gragert. Senator Chambers, you're recognized.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Continuing with the article: On the other side, Senator Steve Lathrop of Omaha argued that senators don't have to like what drug users have done to support the measure. He said the bill makes good policy sense because it would help address the overcrowding crisis in Nebraska's prisons. That's the end of the article. Then I wrote one of my rhymes titled: Senatorial Perfidy and Moral Cowardice. Then beneath that: Their master's voice took away choice. Then in the margin, a definition of Pandora's box from the dictionary, the American Heritage Dictionary: A source of extensive but unforeseen troubles or problems. Then they give an example: The senate investigation turned out to be a Pandora's box for the administration. Now, do you all know who Pandora was? Do you all know who the first woman was? You will say Eve because you have been brain washed by Judeo-Christian methodology. Pandora was the first woman according to the belief of others who are not blinded and deceived by Christianity and Judaism when it comes to their mythology. And as usual, the woman is the heavy in the same way that Eve supposedly persuaded Adam to take a bite of the fruit from the forbidden tree. People say an apple, but the "Bibble" doesn't say an apple. They may not have even had apples in those days. The "Bibble" used so many allegories, metaphors, even parables, the forbidden tree may not have even been a literal tree. The fruit which Adam tasted may not have been literal fruit that you buy in the produce section of a supermarket. You don't know that. But you don't have to. Because ignorance is the ticket in America, and especially in religion. You believe any kind of yarn that you're told. You believe that a flood, based on mythology, really happened. But you reject what science has established about climate change and you see it in all these people out here now begging for taxpayer money to help them bail out because they chose to build on a flood plain which had a history of flooding, flooding, flooding. And now they who foolishly built their house on the sand rather than on the rock that Jesus talked about are coming with their hand stuck out. Not just saying give me something to eat, give me tons of money, in total, more than a billion dollars. That's what they're-- and Senator La Grone, our resident comedian, is not upset with that, it's taxpayer money. I don't believe any of the mythology. I don't believe this yarn about Eve and Adam. And I don't believe the yarn about Pandora. You know what they say about Pandora, she was given a box that was not to be opened. So she took the box to the man, he opened it, and out came all the troubles. Who is to blame for it? Pandora. How many of you all know that Adam was Eve's father and mother? One who gives birth is a mother. Eve was birthed from Adam. Adam was Eve's mother.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Oh, you all can't accept that, huh? Everything goes out the window when your mythology is shown to be a lot nonsense. Another question. You have a belly button because an umbilical cord connected you to your mother. When they cut the umbilical cord, you had a belly button. Why? When you see the portrait that Michelangelo drew, and he was divinely inspired by

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God, why does Adam have a navel? Adam was not born. Adam was made out of mud or something; leaned against a fencepost to dry. Why do men have nipples on their pectoral muscles? Nipples are those avenues by which babies suckle and get their mother's milk. So Adam was both a man and a woman. He birthed Eve and he suckled her when she was a child.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Otherwise-- oh, thank you.

WILLIAMS: Senator Chambers, you are recognized and this is your third time.

CHAMBERS: Otherwise, why does a man have nipples? Hmm? Oh, you ain't got an answer for that, huh? And you want to laugh at Greek and Roman mythology. At least they're more logical than your Christian and Hebrew mythology. The gods were just like you all, they fought, they were unfaithful, they were tricksters, they were liars, just like you all. You all are made more in the image of the pantheon of Greek and Roman gods than this Hebrew fellow who sits up there with his feet hanging over the edge of the universe with a long beard. Beliefs are horrendous things. They lead to some of the worst cruelties ever visited on human beings. The Catholic Church burned philosophers. The philosophers never burned a priest, never burned the Pope. The Popes were poisoners. Those Popes were some bad fellas. That's where organized crime got its origin in the Catholic Church. They were mobsters, they were racketeers. The De Metiche family: Cheserie, Lucrecia, they were Borgheses. You don't even know the difference between the De Metiches and the Borgheses, do you? And what I told you just now may not be true, but it doesn't matter. It's tough having been here around the master race for 40-some odd years. Here's a little verse, well, several verses, but a rhyme. The Speaker is empowered to set the agenda by which the day's business is bound. Should such be needed, then supplemental addenda he adds and the clock is rewound. When everything goes according to Hoyle, then the day's business gets done. But if a joker slips into the deck, the train off the tracks will be run. Trustworthiness is not a mere word. And keeping one's word is expedient. A moral portfolio is fatally flawed if honor is not an ingredient. Cravenly members torqued by the Governor violate trust such as mirthless; spineless, and gutless themselves they do brand, their word counts for nothing, tis worthless. If one must deal with them, on guard, take care, and heed well this warning beware, beware, the hottest of places in all of perdition reserved just for those who take no position. Read Dante's Inferno. Is that what he wrote? Who wrote the Divine Comedy? All the ones who participated in writing the "Bibble," but it's not called the Divine Comedy. You all call it the "Bibble." The Divine Comedy was written by an individual. And one of the things in that Divine Comedy explains where the term "misery loves company" comes from. Satan was asked why since he was doomed forever anyway did he want to make others fall also. Satan gave the answer: it is a solace to the wretched to have companions in grief. In other words, misery loves company. The

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smallest living thing, if you put a hostile environment around it or put it in a hostile environment, like a microbe, it will move and to try to get away from it to stay alive. The biggest animal will do whatever is necessary to try to stay alive--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --principles of biology. Then when Francis Gary Powers was flying a spy plane over Russian territory, the U-2, and was shot down, he had been given a capsule containing poison and he was supposed to bite into it so that he wouldn't be captured. Christians told him that and suicide is supposed to be something Christians don't do, but they required him to do that and he didn't do it. So, these Christians asked why didn't Gary Powers bite into that capsules? You know what ol' godless Khrushchev told them, who know what godless Khrushchev told these Christian Americans? Living things want to go on living. You threaten the life of any living thing and watch it either fight or take flight. If fight doesn't work, flight. Living things want to go on living. Not only Christians don't understand that, they take people out of here and your state does it also as an official policy.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one wanting to speak, Senator Chambers, you are recognized to close on your amendment to indefinitely postpone.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I think a better phrasing of that would not be seeing no one who wants to speak, seeing no one who dares to speak. We're at that point in the session where smart people are going to keep their head down and say nothing. But I'm not smart, like you all. I'm not a member of your master race. Although some of your kind of blood, as I say, polluted my veins and wanted to pollute my brains, it wasn't enough to make me a coward like you. And imagine what I could do if I didn't have that pollution in my veins and messing with my mind and was purely black with all of the things that go with that. Our blood is so strong and powerful that one drop of it would make a person otherwise considered white, a black person. Some of these people who are seeking out this DNA evidence about where they supposedly came from, find out that they have roots in Africa; and some of them-- now, this is not a joke, they have to get counseling and they try to keep it a secret because they're a part of that race that is so demeaning, black people, that to have any blood from black people in your veins is such a stigma, such a stigma, and these are the same ones who are racist and say America has made so much progress. But even though they look white, they don't want anybody to know that they're not because they will suffer what they have contributed toward black people

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as far as suffering. White people know what they've done to us; you all know, and you know what you think and how you feel now. And you know what you'd do if you thought you could get away with it. So don't tell me how far America has come. It's as racist now as it has ever been, and Trump has made it possible for it to come out in the open. All these mass shootings, they're by Christian white people. A young white Christian went into a black church, invited to join them in a prayer meeting and set themselves up, and he murdered nine of them. White Christian. White Christians burning black churches. One Sunday morning, little girls and adults in Sunday school, these white Christians set the church afire, God's house, and you all think I'd want to be called a Christian, and they did it under the rag. And you think that that means something to me. Other than a sign of oppression, wherever I see an American flag, I know it's bad news for black people. And I say again to these cowards, I know they watch, because they call and curse Cindy out. They write anonymous letters and they put a return address that doesn't exist in a state far away and it's postmarked, it's one of these little town in Nebraska. And I said little town, they don't have their own post office, but it's where these little town people go to-- and their mail postmarked. And I'm not supposed to be able to read from one side of the envelope to the other. That's what ignorant, cowardly, racist white people do. I know what you are. And you show me what you are. Now, if it doesn't apply to you, if I'm making hats and it doesn't fit you, don't put it on your head. But if you snatch it out and put it on your head, you're the one who made the application. I simply gave the definition. If you applied it to yourself, that's on you. But you know what's inside of you and you know that I know what's inside of you. And this is the part of the session that I warned you about, but you thought I was like you.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: You thought I was like the faithless group who tricked Senator Hunt in working with them to come up with a compromise. And you think I'm like that, huh? And you think I'm going to swallow and fall for that. No. I told you what I was going to do. And I'm doing it. You ought to respect that. I'm giving you an example that your white betters will not show you. The Governor can whip them into line also. This is not the last time I'm going to do this. Since Senator Gragert persuaded the Speaker, the one in the Chair, to make that determination, it should be made from now on throughout the session, but that's too easy. What I'm going to start doing now is making it easy on myself and the Bill Drafter by just offering amendments and motions on your bill.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will ask for a call of the-- oh, anybody else going to speak or was that closing?

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WILLIAMS: That was your closing. Thank you, Senator Chambers.

CHAMBERS: Then I would ask for a roll call vote and a call of the house first.

WILLIAMS: There's been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President, to place the house under call.

WILLIAMS: The house is under call. Senators, please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Bolz, please check in. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 0 ayes, 40 nays, Mr. President, to indefinitely postpone.

WILLIAMS: The motion fails. Mr. Clerk. Raise the call. Items, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, before we go to the next motion, I do have a few things. Senator Hansen would like to print an amendment to LB217; Senator Erdman to LB512; Senator Chambers to LB590. Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill-- I'm sorry, he would move to reconsider the vote with respect to the indefinite postpone motion.

WILLIAMS: Senator Chambers, you are recognized to open on your motion to reconsider.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm not through with this bill by a long shot. And I'm going to see how long the Speaker keeps us here this evening. In a way, I'm giving a challenge to him. Keep them here; make them earn their living, or their wages and punish me by giving me the opportunity to show how long I can continue doing this. And after this motion, I'm going to start offering amendments on the bill just for the sake of variety. Variety they say is the spice of life. I may even discuss for you all the inappropriate execution that was carried out against Carey Dean Moore. He's a white guy who had been on death row for 38 years. They had tried to kill him, maybe a decade ago, they had been trying. And I had written a letter, at that time they had the electric chair, pointing out why they ought not allow this execution to be carried out, even though they had set an execution date because there was a case before them on appeal that had what no other case ever presented to any state court or any federal court, including the U.S. Supreme Court, with a completely developed record containing scientific evidence and information about what happens to a human body when electrocution

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occurs. I mentioned some other principles of law. And Judge, he is now a federal judge, and Jeff Sessions voted against his being confirmed for that position because Judge Gerrard's principles led him to agree with the comments that I made in my letter and said what a horrible thing it would be if they allowed this electrocution to occur. Then when that fully developed case came up, they ruled that the electric chair was indeed unconstitutional as violating the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Supreme Court-- the U.S. Constitution. They would have executed a man in accord with an unconstitutional punishment and a majority of the Nebraska Supreme Court agreed to withdraw, to withdraw the death warrant they had issued for Carey Dean Moore. And their opinion followed the arguments I made in my letter, almost as though I had written the opinion. Judge Heavican, Chief Judge was very irate. And he wrote an angry, tut-tut, scolding dissent. But to make sure that I didn't intervene again and maybe persuade the judges in a way that no defense lawyer was able to persuade them, got a change in the rules of court so that if a case is pending, they cannot accept any ex parte communication. That mean one-- means one that's outside of the court proceedings. But to make it very blunt, no more letters from Senator Chambers would be read. When they hastened to execute Moore this time, and succeeded, because he acceded to their executing him. I did write a letter. But the clerk wrote me a courteous note informing me that according to court rule such-and-such, adopted such-and-such a time after the other letter that I had written rescuing Moore, they could not entertain any ex parte communications, so the letter would not be read by the Chief Justice and it would not be read by the judges. But I know that they all read it. But they allowed the execution to be carried out anyway for political reasons. The expiration date on those drugs was fast approaching. None of the pharmaceutical houses that provided drugs that had been used in executions would sell any of those drugs to Nebraska. They had forbidden any of the people who distributed their drugs to sell them to Nebraska, so Nebraska had gotten them in a way that was illicit and they did not properly store those drugs. They must be kept at a certain temperature or they lose their potency and those drugs were not stored in that fashion and it was a botched execution. I'm saying it. Frakes denies it. But they closed that curtain and kept it closed for 14 minutes and didn't open it until Moore was dead. And some bad things happened behind that curtain. And it shook the director up and the reporters could see it when he came out. And instead of discussing this with them, as they had always done in the past when somebody was electrocuted, the speak-- not the speaker-- I have to remember where I am-- the director flew out of that place like a bat out of Hades, and now he knows that I know what had happened. And when I tried to engage him in a discussion of it at a Judiciary Committee hearing, he wouldn't answer. I said, oh, so you're taking the Fifth, huh? You know that I know. And I've said enough to you to let you know that I know. Isn't that true? The man looked like his face was cut from stone. And when he left the chair, we were in that Chamber over there, he flew up the aisle and pushed those doors open like they used to do in the days of the Old West and were beating a fast retreat from a saloon that had swinging doors. A lot of terrible things are going on in this state. And I'm going to be the one who will continue to address those kind of things wherever they occur. It happens that that kind of garbage has found its way into the Legislature. So what I've got to do is put some things on the record

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and name the people who were involved in this perfidious action. Inexcusable. And some of them conduct themselves as though they're holy and Christians. But when somebody tells me a Christian, I know I'm dealing with somebody that I better watch, keep a close eye on. Everything they say take with a grain of salt. When they're unfaithful in little things, they'll be unfaithful in all things. At least that's the conclusion that can be drawn. And when a Legislature runs on lies, faithlessness, untrustworthiness, it's not a proper legislative assembly anymore. There are no rules. There are rules in the book. They can be invoked, as in this instance. But there are some people who are not going to sit idly by and let it happen. We're going to take time and you're going to see that when tomorrow comes, I'm not going to be like some people who say I'll go all the way on this. I'll do it. But I'm just not going to let you know when the drop is going to fall. But I assure you, this is not the last of it. And I will continue this tomorrow. And if the Speaker decides to keep us here until 11:59, I will be here. Why until 11:59? Once the time goes a minute past midnight, that's the beginning of another legislative day, and you all are not going to want to stay after that, so that's why I say 11:59. I can do it. Can you all do it? I haven't sat down today.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: I haven't eaten anything today. I'm like Jesus said, I have meat to eat that you know not of. You all get tired from sitting. Your brains are slow. Your morals are nonexistent. It's a terrible place to be. But I chose to be here. So now as Frank Sinatra said, I'm going to do it my way. And this is the way that it's going to be done. Now, if you all want to get together and form a delegation, Senator B. Hansen and Senator Brandt, and get a delegation together and ask me: what must you do to be saved? Once you present that question, I'll listen, perhaps, and maybe we can reach an accord. Otherwise, get ready for this. But there's some bills that I will not touch.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. And you are next in the queue, you may continue.

CHAMBERS: There are some things in the "Bibble" that come in handy. There was going to be a death angel in the Old Testament who was going to kill everybody, unless, unless you had gotten the word and you put some blood over the door. And the death angel said if I see the blood, I'll pass over you. Those were the instructions from upstairs. When you see that blood, you pass over it, because there's somebody, after you kill everybody, who has got to continue to live. And that somebody is Dracula. If you kill everybody, there's nobody for Dracula to live off of and Dracula hasn't done anything. So when you see the blood, you pass over that house. Well, I find Dracula to be more reliable and to have more integrity than people in this body, but I will

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accept the example of the death angel in the Old Testament. Show me the blood and I'll pass over your bill. You all get together and give me what I want and I'll pass over. All you have to do is find out what it is that I want. You have given other senators things far less significant than what I'm after. But you're not going to do that. That's why I can put that possibility out there for you, because I have now set my inner clock to where I will do this day after day after day. But I may not do it every single day, one right after the other. Or maybe I shall. Maybe I'll just do a part of a day. Let you all's hopes get up and then dash them. That's the way gods of every description play with human beings. You're toys. You are of no import. Why does your "Bibble" say: What is man that thou art mindful of him. He is nothing. Nothing at all. He is a plaything. So if you're put here to be played with, I may as well play with you also. But you'll never hear me do like what some of you do and that's make all these professions of religion. It's always amusing to me to watch you all say the flag salute and the camera people are trying to be nice by not panning the room and showing how few people are here showing their patriotism. You ought to make them sing the National Anthem, too, that's what I think you ought to do. You ought to make them say the flag salute and then sing the National Anthem and don't let them sit down. Tape the whole thing, but you're not going to do that, are you? And then you have a prayer. I didn't know that I had anything in common with anybody who is a Mormon. But I find out that I do have something in common with Mitt Romney. He had a birthday and he didn't blow out the candles. He plucked each candle up and blew it out individually because he didn't want to spread germs on the cake. In years past, every single year for several running, I was invited over to Iowa, it was on the campus of the University of Iowa in Ames, and the farm youth would have their convention and I was asked to come talk to them. Somebody had heard me over here talking to young people and thought--

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: --that it would be of value to those children over there. And I went year after year and they found out the date of my birthday and my visit happened to fall on that date. And they had a huge cake and they said you'll probably have to take several breaths because there were quite a few candles then. I said, well, you should never blow out a cake because spittle comes out of your mouth and you should not spit on that which people are going to eat; and they said they had never thought of it. So something as fundamental as that, I was able to bring enlightenment to them on. So you can imagine what to my wandering eye should appear but Mitt Romney, a Mormon, following the teachings and he pulled each candle out. And even the people who were giving the news talked about how much sense that made. But I guess it takes what you all would call a nonbeliever and all the ghosts and the goblins--

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

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CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, you are recognized to speak and this is your third time.

CHAMBERS: I regret that we're reaching the posterior portions of the day and we're going to have to depart. As said the Bard: parting is such sweet sorrow, but we'll be back tomorrow. Somebody is trying to give me something to strengthen me and he believes in commercials. There will be a vicious roaring monster about to descend on something or somethings and somebody gives it a Snickers and he transforms. The Speaker does not know that I keep things. He tried that four years ago. Here's what he gave me then. Here's what he gave me today. He doesn't give up. And I'll tell you the real reason I was keeping it, I wanted to see if there was a resurrection for the Snickers. And I figured that four years ought to be enough for it to resurrect if it's ever going to do it. And I'm curious as to how they can go into these Egyptian tombs and people have been there thousands of years and they haven't risen from the dead yet. How much time do they need? How many of you all believe that? You believe it and you don't believe it. You believe in all these yarns enough to be scared of dying, but you don't believe it in-- in it enough to change the way you live. That puzzles me about you religious people. You're scared to die. And yet you don't live the way you're supposed to. That doesn't make sense. If you know that when you croak, you can see all these wonderful things they lie to little children about, but you believe it. It doesn't seem to me that anything would be too difficult to bear. You would welcome death; you would embrace death; you would have a party so that the international harvester would come to you more quickly, expeditiously. But that's not the way it goes. Every time I see these commercials on television advertising these pharmaceuticals, to me it tells me that Christians don't believe what they say. All of that stuff is to keep you from having to go meet your maker. But if you believe what you say, which you don't, that wouldn't happen. If you believe these prayers that are spoken, things would be different when we have the opportunity as the Legislature to do things to help the people who need to be helped. But then you got hypocrites like Senator La Grone who is willing to beg for farmers and others, white groups who are getting handouts. Give them millions of dollars, but hungry people, none. Senator Lowe talking about people go get work and they're-- well, he doesn't know this. People will not hire felons. He says he would. He can't hire everybody. We're on the Judiciary Committee and we have experience with these matters. On the Business and Labor Committee, we have experience with how these things are being done. Then people who don't know anything are going to turn all of you around, because you're as dumb as he is, and say, well, let them go get a job. Marie Antoinette said when the people are hungry, let them eat cake. No bread, let them eat cake. See, Senator Lowe can leave here and he can go give his family some food. And as long as he can feed his, he doesn't care about anybody else.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

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CHAMBERS: That's what I'm saying. And you know that's the way it is. You can take care of yours and if you've got yours, you don't care about anybody else. But you didn't get yours by yourself. Senator Wayne explained how you white people got this land in the first place. It was given to you and you stole it from the American Indians, as you call them. You were not discoverers, you were invaders. They're the ones who needed a wall to keep you out. They didn't have enough internal security to keep you out. And you tricked them, you duped them, you bamboozled them, and now you're on that reservation that Senator Brewer told you about. He cannot even speak up as strongly as he should. But you will never see me turn my back on my people to get along with people like you all. I wouldn't go home with you if you invited me. I wouldn't eat with you. We're not friends. We couldn't be friends.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator.

CHAMBERS: For what? Oh, excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I was looking at the wrong person. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Seeing no one wanting to speak, Senator Chambers, you are recognized to close on your motion to reconsider.

CHAMBERS: Thank you, and I assure you I have another one ready. Not just a motion, I'm going to start amending the bill. And I wish you all would tell the Speaker-- keep that old man up here until 11:59, we don't think he can do it. But here's the kicker, you couldn't do it. You can't do it. You've got places to go, people to see, maybe some lobbyist free food to eat while you're denying food to others because you got yours. The thing that would make me worry about your children, Senator Lowe, is if my children could eat and your children could not. You could be the biggest rat who ever lived, but I wouldn't punish your children because their father is a rat. That is their punishment. And I'm not like your god, I would punish generations down to the fourth generation for something you did. I would not say Senator Lowe ate sour grapes, let his children's teeth be set on edge. But you don't mind doing that, because you've never had this kind of problem. So you think you never will. So you have a higher moral standing than everybody else. You're in a position to judge. And as a member of the Legislature, you can persuade your fellows who are just like you to say, let them eat cake. But in the end, Marie Antoinette didn't fair so well. But that's not the way the real world works now. You will go on and succeed; you'll die a happy old man in bed, and that will be the end of it. And all the people who were denied because of your false leadership and accept what you say, there's plenty of work out there. They'll still be hurting, their children will be hurting, and it won't make you any difference. Maybe that's why I'm living so long. Maybe there's a way, maybe there's something in the cards that I can find that will soften a heart like yours or stop you from saying the things that you say. You give them an excuse. See, you're a bad man because you really are bad. And they look to

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bad men like you to give them an excuse. And you can give them that excuse and it doesn't bother you because you have no conscience. They need somebody to ease their conscience. And if their leader, whom they have made you, gives them those words they can do it. I cannot watch anybody hungry, I cannot be comfortable in the presence of anybody suffering if I can alleviate it. And you know why that is? Because I'm not a Christian. And I'm sure you are one or you profess to be one. But I'm not going to ask you and I'm not going to accuse you of being one. That's the worst accusation I think can be laid on a person to call him or her a Christian. Now, what you would like to see, and the rest of your colleagues here, is a big bonfire out in one of those courts with me as the main participant. They call that an auto-da-fe', an act of faith. When they burn somebody at the stake, that was an auto-da-fe'. They burned women; for people like Senator Slama who doesn't know that. Was Joan of Arc a woman? I wonder why they would refer to her gender. But it didn't make them any difference, they were not respecters of anything. Cruel hardhearted then, cruel hardhearted now, and your Governor, a putative Christian, a putative Catholic; some would say putative. He believes in killing even though the Pope said that shouldn't be. He believes in denying the hungry, food, even though the Catholic Church doctrine has always been against that.

WILLIAMS: One minute.

CHAMBERS: Deny the homeless, shelter. The Catholic doctrine, if you want to call it that, of social justice does not go for that. But you all do. And I'm here among you. They say evil or wicked companions corrupt good manners. Well, you all are not my companions. We're just here together, but we're not companions, we're not friends, and my manners will not be corrupted. You and no number of people like you could ever put me in a position where I will withhold food from the hungry when it can be provided and it's not even coming out of my pocket. I'm so mean-spirited, so wicked in my deepest innards that I will not support food that I don't even have to pay for just so they don't get it. I hope that nothing ever befalls your child that has befallen other people's children.

WILLIAMS: Time, Senator. Thank you, Senator Chambers. And that was your close on your reconsideration motion. Members, we will now be voting on the reconsideration motion.

CHAMBERS: Call of the house and a roll call vote.

WILLIAMS: There has been a request to place the house under call. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor please vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 15 ayes, 9 nays to place the house under call.

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WILLIAMS: The house is under call. Senators please record your presence. Those unexcused senators outside the Chamber please return to the Chamber and record your presence. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. The house is under call. Senator Chambers, please check in. Senator Bolz, please check. All members are accounted for. The question is, shall the motion to reconsider be adopted? All in favor vote aye; opposed vote nay. Senator Chambers, did you request a roll call?

CHAMBERS: Yes. Thank you.

WILLIAMS: Sorry, we'll have a roll call. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken.) 1 aye, 40 nays on the motion to reconsider.

WILLIAMS: Motion fails. Raise the call. Mr. Clerk for items.

CLERK: Mr. President, no items.

Senator Albrecht would move to adjourn the body until Wednesday morning, April 3, at 9:00 a.m.

WILLIAMS: Members, you've heard the motion to adjourn. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.