

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate January 28, 2021

HUGHES: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the sixteenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Our chaplain for today is Senator Halloran. Please rise.

HALLORAN: Good morning. The Lord God passed by Elijah in the hurricane and in the earthquake and then in a flash of fire, of lightning, as once he had appeared to Moses on that same mountain, but the Lord didn't speak through any of these. Elijah waited quietly until he heard the sound of a low whisper, the sound of a still small voice. Lord God, please grant us some quiet time in our noisy days. Please help us to have a few minutes in our day to turn off our TV, radio, cell phones and computers so we can hear your still small voice. And your people all say amen.

HUGHES: Thank you, Senator Halloran. I recognize Senator Albrecht for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALBRECHT: Please join me in the pledge. I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

HUGHES: Thank you. I call to order the sixteenth day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislative-- Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call.

HILGERS: Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any corrections for the Journal?

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections at this time.

HILGERS: Thank you. Are there any messages, reports or announcements?

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. First of all, the Executive Board met to re-reference LB-- and has re-referenced LB9 from the Revenue Committee to the Urban Affairs Committee. The Executive Board also appointed members to the 2021 Redistricting Committee. The Performance Audit Committee met and selected Senator Geist as their Chair and Senator McCollister as their Vice Chair. Notice of committee hearings from the Health and Human Services Committee. Urban Affairs

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate January 28, 2021

Committee refers LB25, LB44, LB159, LB163 to General File, some having committee amendments. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee refers LB4 and LR1 to General File and LR1 reported to the Legislature for further consideration. Additionally, Senator Wayne would move to refer LB656 to the Urban Affairs Committee pursuant to Rule 6, Section 2(a). That's all I have at this time, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Albrecht would like to recognize Dr. David J. Hoelting of Pender, who is ser-- serving as our physician of the day today. Dr. Hoelting is under the north balcony. Please rise and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Senator Erdman, for what purpose do you rise?

ERDMAN: Point of personal privilege.

HILGERS: Please proceed.

ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good-- can I have a gavel? Thank you. Some of you may have read the Lincoln Journal Star, Omaha World-Herald that talked about the issue of me violating qu-- violating quarantine yesterday. I did not violate quarantine. The document that I received from the Lancaster Public Health said, excuse me, if you have had COVID and have overcome it and recovered, you are not required to quarantine-- quarantine. So I recovered. But in the paper it said, on one part of the article it said that I had COVID and then as you read down it says, I have COVID. That is a typo. I do not have COVID. I had COVID and recovered. What happened in the Appropriations Committee room on Tuesday was a travesty. The committee clerk had COVID in December. And everyone that I know that's had COVID that got correct medical advice from doctors who have common sense tell them do not test for several months because there'll be dead COVID cells and you will show a positive. Case in point, my sister-in-law went to the hospital for some other reason. They did a blood test to see what her problems were. They discovered she had the antibodies. They said, we must test you. She said, I have the antibodies. They tested her. She showed up positive. Why is that? Because she'd had COVID recently. Now the committee clerk had two negative tests as well. But we're not interested in negative tests. We're interested in positive tests. And so the test that they're using, the PCR test, was never intended to test for positive or negative. It was to determine the volume of some entity in a sample and they blow it up and they blow it up and they blow it up and they expand it until they finally find COVID samples. That committee should have never dismissed. And here's my thought. If-- if the masks work, if social distancing works, that committee clerk was never closer to anybody than six feet for just a moment,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate January 28, 2021

handing out one brief document, wore a mask all the time, and now we have to quarantine. Either the masks and social distancing work or it doesn't work. You decide. And so I've already started getting emails telling me-- well, I won't say what they said. But one reason why I didn't want to announce to the public that I had COVID, it's private information, first of all. And there are HIPAA laws and they apply to us as anyone else. And so when the reporter asked me yesterday questions about my health, I ask him if he had prostate cancer. And he said, what? I said, if you can ask me health questions, I should be able to ask you health questions.

HILGERS: One minute.

ERDMAN: HIPAA laws apply to everybody. And so consequently, we are here where we are now because we're following some supposedly called science. And the reason I didn't want to announce I had COVID, I seen what the general public did. I seen what the media did to my good friend Senator Groene when he announced he had COVID. So why do we study history? So we don't repeat it. So I seen what they did to him. And I figure it's my own personal private health issue and I don't need to describe it or discuss it with the world. So I'm not contagious. What happened to that committee clerk is very, very irresponsible, and the depart-- Health Department owes her an apology. Thank you.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Mr. Clerk, for an item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I have a motion by Senator Ben Hansen to suspend Rule 3, Section 14, to permit cancelation of the Business and Labor Committee's hearing regarding LB598. Additionally, series of name adds: Senator Hughes to LB581 and Senator Lindstrom to LR3CA. Finally, Mr. President, Senator Day would move to adjourn the body until Friday, January 29, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, you've heard the motion. All those in favor say aye. Opposed say nay. We are adjourned.