

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Floor Debate February 4, 2021

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

LOWE: Father in heaven, we thank you. We give you praise and glory. You reveal that not only, not only you love us, not only you can continually reveal your heart to us, that you continually fight for us. Again, father, you continually show us that our hearts are made for you and you alone, and that our hearts continually make idols and we can, and we can make idols out of just about anything. You free us from idols and you free us for true worship. Help our hearts to be free, truly free, that we do not turn to idols, that we do not turn to false worship, but we have hearts that have the kind of interior freedom where we can offer you the worship that you ask for. We make this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Lowe. You are recognized also for the pledge.

LOWE: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, [INAUDIBLE], with liberty and justice for all.

HILGERS: Thank you. I call to order the twenty-first day of the One Hundred Seventh Legislature, First Session. Senators, please record your presence. Roll call. Mr. Clerk, please record.

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

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: No corrections this morning.

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

ASSISTANT CLERK: There are, Mr. President. I have notice of committee hearings from the Health and Human Services Committee, from the Natural Resources Committee, and the Judiciary Committee. In addition to that, I have a report on a gubernatorial appointment from the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and a series of reports from the Banking Committee to include LB177, LB509, LB532, LB253, LB503, LB510, all placed on General File with no committee amendments, LB337 with committee amendments, LB234 from the Banking Committee, which is

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indefinitely postponed. In addition, the Committee on Natural Resources reports LB148 to General File with committee amendments attached. That's all I have at this time.

HILGERS: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before turning to the first item on the agenda, Senator McCollister would like to recognize Dr. Steven M. Williams of Omaha, who is serving as our family physician of the day. Dr. Williams, please, please rise and be recognized by your Nebraska Legislature. Turning to the first item on the agenda, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the first item is a report from the Education Committee for Marilyn Hadley, Clay Smith, and Paul Turman, all to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission.

HILGERS: Senator Morfeld, as Vice Chair of the Education Committee, you're recognized to open on the adoption of the confirmation report.

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. These appointments to the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission-- the commission was established in 1963 by the Educational Television Act. The purposes of the commission are to promote and establish NET facilities, provide NET programs, and operate educational and public radio and TV networks. This is an 11-member commission and the appointed members serve a term of four years. Marilyn Hadley is a-- reappointed as the 3rd District representative on the commission. First appointed in 2015, this will be Ms. Hadley's third term. She is currently serving as the chair of the commission. Ms. Hadley is a professor emeritus of the University of Nebraska-Kearney. She serves on the UNK G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture Advisory Committee, the Nebraska Legislative League, as well as many other boards and committees. Ms. Hadley has a longtime commitment to both education and public service in our state. Mr. President, are we taking all three of these in one vote or are we doing them individually?

HILGERS: We're doing one report with all-- with the three names and there's a second report after.

MORFELD: Excellent. I'll move on to Clay Smith. Clay Smith is reappointed as the 1st District representative on the commission. First appointed in 2007, this will be his fourth term. He is the president of Speedway Motors here in Lincoln. Mr. Smith is an active member of the community serving on numerous boards, including the boards of the Sheldon Art Gallery, the Lincoln Community Foundation, the Park-- Lincoln Partnership for Public Art Development, and Bryan Health. The third appointment is Dr. Paul Turman. He is reappointed as

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the state college representative on the commission. He was first appointed in 2019 and this will be his second term. Dr. Turman is the chancellor of the Nebraska State College System. He also serves on the Nebraska Workforce Development Board. Dr. Turman received his Ph.D. from UNL and was previously the system vice president for academic affairs for the board of regents in South Dakota. The Education Committee advanced these nominations unanimously. Thank you for your time and I ask for your confirmation of Marilyn Hadley, Clay Smith, and Dr. Paul Turman. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you for your opening, Senator Morfeld. Debate is now open on the confirmation report. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Morfeld, you're recognized to close. Senator Morfeld waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation report. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

HILGERS: The report is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Second report this morning, also from the Education Committee, is Mary Lauritzen and Paul Von Behren to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education.

HILGERS: Senator Morfeld, as Vice Chair of the Education Committee, you're recognized to open on the confirmation report.

MORFELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. These appointments-- these reappointments are to the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The commission was established in 1991 by a constitutional amendment. The purposes of the commission is to-- responsible for developing an ongoing, comprehensive, statewide plan for the operation of an economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of postsecondary education. This is an 11-member commission and the appointed members serve six terms-- six-year terms. Mary Lauritzen is being reappointed as an at-large member and has served on the commission for the past 20 years. She recently retired as a clinic manager of the Family Vision Center of West Point, Nebraska, and serves as the chairwoman of the Nebraska Foundation for Vision Awareness, and is a former president of the National Foundation for Vision Awareness. As an active member of the community, she has received the President's Star Award from the West Point Chamber of Commerce and the Distinguished Service Award from the Northeast Community College. Dr. Paul Von Behren is being reappointed as the District 3 representative. He currently serves as the chairman

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on budget, construction, and financial aid subcommittee for CCPE. Now retired, his professional career has been dedicated to agriculture for 23 years in the swine industry and 13 years in the beef and dairy industries for Cargill and ADM. Dr. Behren received a doctorate of veterinary medicine from the Iowa State University and his master's in business administration from the University of Nebraska-Omaha. The Education Committee advanced these nominations unanimously. Thank you for your time and I ask for the confirmation of Mary Lauritzen and Paul Von Behren. Thank you, Mr. President.

HILGERS: Thank you, Senator Morfeld, for your opening. Debate is now open on the confirmation reports. Seeing no one in the queue, Senator Morfeld, you're recognized to close. Senator Morfeld waives closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the confirmation reports. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have all those voted who wish to? Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the report.

HILGERS: The report is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, a series of name adds: Senator Pansing Brooks to LB51, Senator Hunt to LB59, Senator Matt Hansen to LB156, Senator Lowe to LB188, Senator Matt Hansen to LB275, Senator Lindstrom to LB643, Senator Halloran to LB675, and Senator McCollister withdraw from LB263. Finally, a priority motion: Senator Sanders would move to adjourn until Friday, February 5, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

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