

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 74 was originally introduced by Senator Withem, Hartnett, Lynch and Hall. It is found on page 1251 of the Journal. Again, pursuant to the Speaker's directive, the resolution was referred to Reference for referral to Standing Committee. The resolution was referred to Government who conducted a public hearing. The resolution was reported back to the floor for further consideration.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I did bring LR 74. Let me explain why I brought the resolution. Some people were wondering, does this signify that I'm moving on to the Department of State or some other position? It certainly has nothing to do with that. That of the many organizations that are headquartered, that reside within my legislative district, one of which I'm very proud of is the Croatian Cultural Society. It is a group of Omaha citizens who have Croatian ancestry and continue to keep alive the culture of Croatia and many of them have family back in Croatia. They are, as I think we all are, distressed with the daily news of events happening in that part of the world and they asked me if I would bring a resolution forward on their behalf. I have done so. It has been heard by the Government Committee. We did have a hearing on this measure. The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee did vote to send it on to the full Legislature and I appreciate the Speaker taking a little bit of time to allow us to debate this on the floor. Admittedly this is not the normal type of resolution although I think as elected representatives, that reside in the world at large, we have an obligation to take note of events that are happening in the world at large. The situation in the former Yugoslavia is reaching a point where we can no longer ignore it. I find it ironic that during the same week where there is a lot of attention paid on the, paid to the holocaust of World War II, events very similar to those are taking place at this time in another part of Europe. My daughter is doing a lot of reading right now about the persecution that took place in Nazi Germany and the general message that she's trying to get from this is this sort of thing can never happen again. Unfortunately, maybe not to the extent, but unfortunately it is happening again. The conflict in the former Yugoslavia began, two main events I'd guess you'd say, one was the death of Tito who had been the strong ruler of Yugoslavia from World War II until his death in the early 1980s. He was able to keep a very divergent