

January 6, 1977

The Committee on Highways and Transportation was called to order on January 6, 1977, in Room 437 at 2:30 p.m. with Chairman William Baeth presiding and all members present for a get-acquainted meeting.

Chairman Baeth had the members introduce themselves telling where they were from and a little about themselves. He said the researcher working with the committee is Bob Pearson, and he is available to any member seeking assistance.

Chairman Baeth said that in session all questions must come through the chair; that there would be no time limit set on proponents and opponents unless necessary; that bills would be heard and acted on promptly--however, if any member had questions they would wait on the executive session for a day or so. He told the members it was their committee; he was just there to direct it.

Chairman Baeth announced that next Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. the members of the committee will meet with the Highway Heads and on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. they will meet with the Highway Patrol. There will be no regular meeting on these days. He asked the committee members to notify him or the secretary if unable to attend.

A question was raised about the time of the meetings--if the House were to adjourn early or late. Chairman Baeth said if they adjourned early they would meet early and as far as he knew the meetings would otherwise be at 3:30 p.m.--perhaps the House would recess for the committee meetings when they become pressed for time.

The members discussed some of the complaints and problems which have surfaced because of last session's bill that staggered vehicle licensing. Rep. Keyser mentioned the highway patrol was having difficulty ascertaining expired licenses--suggested to correct this was having a large numbered decal in the car's rear window or possibly having the months color coded on the license plates. Other complaints mentioned were having to go in several times a year if more than one vehicle was owned; paying double fees on license plates when purchasing another vehicle; being taxed on the January blue book later in the year when values would be less; and the inequity of fees in licensing large motor vehicles.

It was mentioned that Attorney General Greely was sending a letter to all county court houses so all would clearly understand the law--part of the present problems being due to lack of understanding. Chairman Baeth said Mr. Greely or another knowledgeable individual would come and discuss this and related questions with the committee. He suggested Rep. Keyser talk with Mr. Pearson about a way of changing the month on the license plate to make it more legible for the Highway Patrol.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. Baeth
WILLIAM R. BAETH, Chairman

Lincoln State