

March 12, 1973

Now I was not going to try to advance the bill because if it was placed on the floor of the legislature, there would be no choice other than to debate it, take all of the time, get into the personalities, have all of the antagonism which the legislature could do without at this time, so rather than compel the legislature to deal with it, I wanted to kill it, then if any action was taken by the legislature to debate it it would be through a positive act, placed by a majority of the legislature and nobody could blame the government committee for subjecting the legislature to this ordeal. That is one of the reasons the bill was not advanced.

SPEAKER: Any other discussion on the motion? Did Senator DeCamp wish to, Senator Proud, and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President as I stated this is no place in my judgement at all to debate the merits, I just wish to say that as you know the Conference of State Legislatures voted Nebraska #1 in accountability and I don't believe any of us want to sweep this matter under the rug, and when Senator Barnett does move, if this comes out of Committee and Senator Barnett does move to place it to the top of general file, I probably oppose that because I think it should take it's regular course through the legislature but I do hope that you will give us the 25 votes to bring it from the Committee and put it on this floor regardless of your final decision as to the merits of the resolution.

SPEAKER: Any further discussion? Senator DeCamp will be closing on his motion.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I have not yet discussed and do not intend to the merits of the Equal Rights Amendment, I've eluded to my position, I've said that the reason that I believe it has to come to the floor and be resolved, in open, in the public, by everyone of us here, is because it was not done properly last year. If you will check the first resolution we passed, left half of the language of the constitutional amendment passed by Congress. The second resolution was strictly, simply and solely, a contest to be number one to ratify. There was not one word of debate on the floor. Now Senator Chambers has suggested that this was all taken care of in the Government Military Affairs Committee. I will agree that a very good and fair hearing was given in that committee, and that hearing was for the public. Senator Chambers should understand and I'm sure he does, that the committee hearings are primarily for the public benefit. The debate and vote on this floor is what counts in terms of passing or killing legislation ultimately, and until we resolve it out here, and clear up the question, once and for all, it will keep rising to haunt us, so let's have the guts, bring it out, and either kill it or pass it, but let's not say that the Government and Military Affairs Committee by trying to kill it has spared the legislature some terrible ordeal. We are not here to be spared ordeals or to have the Government and Military Affairs Committee do all our voting or decide all our issues for us. We are here for the purpose of openly and fairly determining what should or should not be done, each of us individually on the floor.

SPEAKER: Alright, the question is before you, the motion is to place on general file LR 9 inasmuch as more than twenty or more days has elapsed since the hearing, it will require a majority, this will require 25 votes, a majority of the elected members. All those in favor will vote aye, those opposed will vote nay. Voting nay.

CLERK: Luedtke voting no.