

March 12, 1973

(Start of Belt #8)

on General File. The public, in my estimation, has every right now to know that it is on General File and that we are going to consider it in its due course. Now what is the matter with that? Well, I know what some Senators think the matter with it is. They believe that by killing the bill they will avoid receiving more mail. This is a point, and I submit to you that I don't always appreciate receiving mail, yet I was elected and I'm suppose to be responsive to the wishes of the people in my district and the people in the state of Nebraska. Now, one other point, and I don't expect anybody to feel sorry for me. I did not know for sure, at all, that this bill would come out of Committee and be put on the floor this morning. Senator DeCamp made the motion. I certainly did not discourage him in that. I am not prepared for a full debate this morning and I doubt very...I would guess that my opponents in this are prepared less. Therefore, I think the bill should take its...the Resolution should take its natural course like any other matter that is treated as a bill, and, therefore, I oppose his motion to put it at the top of General File because it's just a tactic to get rid of something quickly so that the public cannot be further alerted, and the public has got a right to be alerted to this. It is that important. This is an amendment to the United States Constitution, and, off hand, I can't think of anything more important.

SPEAKER: All right. Senator Waldron, and then Senator Stahmer, then Senator Snyder after that.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I hope we would continue to take this up this morning so we are not bothered with it once again. I don't think Senator Proud could accuse Senator Barnett of being a master strategist in this body and few people have, but I'd like to say is that we should...we should take this up today, and I think as Senator Proud says, the public has been aware of this Resolution quite long ago and he has certainly...we have certainly received enough letters on it. I feel the Senators have made up their mind and we hold it over for another day, then this last 30 minutes that we have discussed, we'll restate the same things we've said this morning which I don't believe are necessary and we should go ahead and dispose of this Resolution at this time.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to speak in favor of Senator Barnett's suggestion. I don't honestly think there is one Senator in this body who is going to change their mind, whether we hold this bill up one day, one week, one month, or one year. If I thought so, I would support Senator Proud, but there are besides this bill, there are other important measures before this body and we get mail everyday and if we get 10,000 letters one way and 10,000 letters another day, every day, which I suspect we will, I don't think anyone is going to change their mind, but it does make it difficult to try to get at the root, causes of problems, concerning many other, hundreds of important bills, and I think everyone has received enough letters to know what their constituents, what groups think in the state. The positions have been stated and I think if Senator Proud isn't ready now, he'll never be ready.

SPEAKER: I'm going to...the chair is going to break in here now and introduce 20 Political Science students up here in the north balcony from Chadron State College, under the north balcony. I guess they are under the north balcony, back here. If they will stand and be recognized with Jim Sheaffer. Will the students from Chadron please stand and be recognized. All right. Senator Snyder.