

March 7, 1979

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR KOCH: The general public, I would submit to you, Senator Beutler, once you inform them of the value of a bill, they will agree with you that to place an artificial limitation is, indeed, not to the best advantage of the public nor the individual senators, nor the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Lamb from Anselmo.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support the amendment by Senator Beutler, which would restrict the number of bills introduced by each senator to six instead of the present ten, on the alternate year. I do this, because...I support the amendment because I believe that too many bills in this body interferes with the legitimate business of the Legislature. As Senator Koch has stated many bills are introduced not because there's a genuine interest in it, but merely to make a point, merely to satisfy some constituent. I believe those functions can be taken care of in another manner, and the proper legitimate functions of the Legislature will then not be diffused, and we can be on with the business that we need to be about. I...I...as Senator Beutler stated, this is only attacking one part of the problem, and the other problem is the excessive number of bills which are introduced by committees, and I am hopeful that there will be subsequent attempts to limit the committee bills so that we can escape from the abuse that is being administered in that manner. I support the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Before we go further, I'd like to introduce some guests we have with us today. Senator Stoney has fifty 4th Grade students from Mt. Claire School, which is in the Millard District in the north balcony, and their instructor is Lynn Kimperly. Would you stand and be recognized, please? Then in the south balcony, Senator Maresh has five Senior High School students from Exeter High School, and Lonnie Shafer is their instructor. Would you stand and be recognized, please? Thank you. Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I support Senator Beutler's amendment...or suggestion of rule change, and here's the reason. There isn't a person in this Legislature, but what asks their constituents for input. We beg almost to have them come down for hearings. They take a day off if they live outstate. They come down for a hearing. They give us that input, and then what happens. At the end of a biennium, those bills have never even been heard on General File, and what do they think about this? Are they going to come down the