

February 12, 1981

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this bill is a simple one. All it does is allow the Highway Commission to have a meeting outside of Lincoln if they should choose to do so. I ask for permission to introduce the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the practice of introducing bills after the tenth legislative day, of course, requires a suspension of the rules but in addition to that I think that it should only be done if there is some kind of an emergency situation or some type of unusual situation that would require this or make good sense that we do this. Otherwise the danger is, I think, that we develop a practice whereby as a matter of routine we suspend the rules and allow the introduction of bills after the tenth day. God knows we have enough bills already. As I understand it from Senator Nichol, this was something that the agency just did not get done in time. Well if we routinely allow the suspension of the rules and the introduction of these things late a month after the session has begun, the agencies will have a tendency not to get them done on time. I think we should make the point that the agencies, like the Senators, and like the committees and I think it should be the same for the Governor, that we all have the same deadline and we all meet it unless there is some emergency situation. So I would ask that the rules not be suspended unless there is some good cause. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: We have not changed the rules as they currently are. There has been some discussion of doing so. It seems to me that this could be an economy for the State of Nebraska to at times hold the meeting elsewhere than Lincoln when there are a number of commissioners from different locations in the State of Nebraska. It also, in the essence of fair play, would say that Lincoln is not always the center of all activity. I would support the suspension of the rules for the introduction of this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Do I see five hands? Shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Debate ceases. The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol to close on his motion.