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later on. Seniority is a factor. It is something we take in account when we work on the Committee on Committees, but it is not all-inclusive and all-binding because sometimes seniority really isn't the way to go. So I think the openness and democratic system that we have right now in this body ought to be maintained. We should not approve the amendment as proposed by Senator Abboud.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise to oppose this rule change somewhat reluctantly. As Senator Wesely indicated, the longer you are here the more important seniority becomes to you, and the more you understand its importance. But I say that tongue in cheek because I can remember when I came in here I didn't think seniority was all that important. I thought I was elected by some people to represent them. I would suggest to those of you that are just beginning your term of office in here that your vote counts exactly the same as anybody else does, regardless of how long they've been here. You represent approximately the same number of people. As far as the contributions you can make to the State of Nebraska, it is just as important from the first day on it seems to me. I believe to go away from the system we've got now would open to the possibility of an individual, that might have been able to amass a few years of seniority, to be appointed to a specific committee that they might happen to want but have no expertise or ability or anything else in, regardless of how talented or how much expertise somebody with less seniority would have. I don't think that makes any sense. I would further suggest, as Senator Wesely indicated, being a member of the Committee on Committees is not exactly the most popular place to be. I can understand that. I can understand those that don't feel too happy about what might have happened, since I've been on that side for a number of years as well. But I will remind you that, those of you that got put perhaps some place where you didn't particularly care to be put, you are going to learn things there that you, in spite of yourself, in spite of whether you like it or not, you are going to learn some things that you wouldn't have known otherwise and it is going to broaden your abilities and your knowledge as a result of that. As somebody that has spent time on seven of our different Standing Committees over the last few years, I can attest to that. I think I've learned a little something in those positions, and I hope that even though I went there