

January 8, 1986

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of amendments. The first motion I have to adoption of the permanent rules is a proposal by the Rules Committee. That was reported to the floor of the Legislature last session. The proposal regards an additional new rule regarding the code of official conduct.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, this was a proposal that was brought to the committee by Senator Beutler. It was acted upon in March of last year, printed in your Journal, and I believe you have copies of that on your desk to refresh your memory since I know it has been some time ago. It is self-explanatory and there are a few things that I would just like to give you a little background on. In 1969 the Nebraska Legislature enacted LB 75 which was then codified in our statutes and this in effect was a code of conduct for the Nebraska Legislature. But in 1976 under LB 987, which established the Disclosure and Accountability Commission, we then deleted this from our statute. So the idea of a code of conduct in some form or another is not foreign to the Nebraska legislative body. With that background and that premise, the Rules Committee felt that it was indeed appropriate that we have the opportunity as a body to discuss that and that is why the Rules Committee has advanced this for your consideration.

PRESIDENT: Is there discussion? Senator Beutler, did you wish the floor?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, at a time when the Legislature is about to deal with some very, very difficult problems at a time when we are going through some economic difficulties and we need all of the credibility that we can possibly have, I think we have the opportunity here to start out with a strong, positive note for the public addressing our own rules and addressing our own conduct and demonstrating to the public that we, ourselves, are willing to hold ourselves to the highest of standards. Let me orient you a little bit more and remind you about the code of conduct and some of the provisions in it. First of all, let me start out and preface my remarks by indicating to you that I do not come to you with this proposal thinking that our Legislature is