

January 8, 1986

planning to introduce and we are having a series of meetings. Am I to say, oh, I can't have you pay for my lunch even though it had been ordered ahead of time, even though it was a group kind of thing, because I know after meeting with him three times that I am well over the \$25 mark. I think when you are having it at the end of the month and you can go into the next month, that is fine, but what if your meetings happen to be in the middle of the month? I think it is too awkward with which to work. I do not expect to support it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh. Then the speaking order follows is Senator Haberman...Senator DeCamp, excuse me, and then Senator Haberman and Senator Chambers.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President and members, I really would like to get your attention for a moment. I know we have just been to lunch but I would like to talk for a moment about something slightly bigger than a \$25 lunch. I would like to talk about the Constitution of the State of Nebraska. Do you know that in your Constitution, that has been viewed and reviewed for a hundred years almost, special provisions were carefully put in and have been kept in for a hundred years to give special protection to legislators alone in this state to make sure you are not harassed or intimidated or kept from doing your job in here through the threat of harassment. Let's talk about those. Ernie can get up on this floor, and as a legislator, he can say things so outrageous and illegal about John DeCamp or anybody else that if he said them outside the Chamber I could sue him and win damages just like I can about him. Immunity, special immunity given to us in the Constitution so that we can be free to function without somebody biting at us and saying, you can't say this, you can't think this, you can't say those things about Moammar Khadafy and Ronald Reagan. That is not it. There is more. The Constitution and your predecessors went to all the trouble to put another special provision in so that you couldn't be even harassed on some criminal matters using other laws of the state. Theoretically, you are free according to the Constitution from arrest. So that you can't be harassed, you can't be bothered, you can't be intimidated by penny-ante people trying to use the laws just to harass you. Now somebody went to all the trouble of putting these things in the Constitution and we are sitting here debating whether we are going to keep track of whether a drink costs \$5, \$2, \$7,