

January 9, 1986

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz. I will raise the call. Hang around though, we're very close to probably getting to vote on this.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. When I was here a couple years, and I'd like to share my experience with you because it was something that I'd never heard of that was done before, but I had been to St. Louis for a water conference and I believe there was a couple other senators that were out of town. We were properly excused and it was on Final Reading and it was state aid to education which involved millions of dollars and I had voted no on Select and General File. So one of the senators, and I believe it was Senator Chambers insisted on a call of the house and I, of course, was in Omaha. I just got off the plane and I told the Clerk when they called that there was a call of the house and I had to come immediately to Lincoln to vote on Final Reading on state aid to education. I told him I wasn't feeling well, that I was in bed, that I'd just got off the plane and I was not going to drive, the weather was bad. And so he came back to the floor and announced to the body that I was ill and I could not return to Lincoln, but immediately thereafter another call came and said the State Patrol will be there in five minutes. So while they sat here for one hour, the State Patrol came and got me and I arrived here and the body had to sit here for one solid hour while I traveled from Omaha to Lincoln and just walked down the aisle and voted my usual no. So it is possible that they can call you from wherever you're at and if there is a rule change that would eliminate that if you're properly excused, I don't think that on one vote on Final Reading or any time that a senator should be given the privilege of saying a call of the house and I insist that everybody be here and that the rest of the people have to sit here for one hour while the State Patrol brings me down. It was a little bit embarrassing too to be traveling at a high speed on the interstate with the lights flashing and me sitting in the back seat. I felt like a criminal coming down here. But anyway, it is an experience to do that. We haven't done that since then, but it can be done and we should...we look kind of ridiculous when we make people sit here for one hour waiting for someone to come from Omaha for one vote. I support the rule change, if it eliminates that if you're properly excused and you're out of town, that you shouldn't be forced to come either by yourself or by the State Patrol,