

January 9, 1986

issues. I personally have become overburdened over the last several years by the amount of work that we provide for ourselves. Our appetites are absolutely enormous. They are insatiable, says my lexicologist friend, Ernest Chambers. Our ability to digest all that we ingest is not so enormous. We can only digest a finite amount of thoughts, ideas, notions and work. So I suggested that this session only, not 1987, not 1988, but 1986, given the large number of carryover bills that we have, we have the largest number of carryover bills in the history of the Nebraska Legislature, that this session only we develop a technique, a technique to maybe hold our appetites somewhat in check. Now we've all been down here for two legislative days, one and a half legislative days and at this juncture we still have the holiday atmosphere. We are still festive. We are still introducing bills as though bill introduction was going out of style. We put in 100 bills on the first day. Lord only knows what the number is going to be this day and the third day and the fourth day and right on down the line. But just like the person who overconsumes at the banquet we will pay the price the following morning with bicarbonate of soda, with a hangover and what have you and the price that we're going to pay and the public is going to pay is we're going to be bombarded with day after day after day of public hearing on bill after bill after bill that doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell. I had this wonderful dialogue with my good friend, Jim Pappas, yesterday afternoon who says to me, remember that bill that I brought to revenue last year? Mmm, hmm. That dog? Mmm, hmm. Well I pawned it off on Senator Hartnett and he has introduced it. And I said, and you both of you know it won't go anyplace. That's right. But it will mean an hour's public hearing in revenue. It will mean an hour's public hearing on a bill that won't go anyplace. So what I propose is very simple. I originally proposed in my letter to you that the Executive Board find 100 bills that we would consider, but a lot of you talked to me about that and a lot of you said that you were nervous about that the change was too radical. To give the Executive Board the ability to choose 100 nuggets out of all the kernels that we drop was too much, even though I provided a check which would allow 25 of us to decide that there would be a hundred and first bill or a hundred and second bill or a two hundredth bill if we wanted to for a public hearing. So I have modified the proposal. It does this. Number one, it says we will only have 7 legislative days this year to introduce bills as opposed to 10 days.

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