

January 9, 1986

We are back to the amendment itself. Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak about your amendment.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I think what I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, because the debate on this may take a little time. I would like to divide the question, if I might, because it is a fairly divisible question with the first item up to simply be Section 1 and Section 2 of the particular rule change, and the gravamen of that is that it simply provides that no bills shall be introduced after the seventh legislative day. Would that be all right?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Yes, that would be all right.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: All right, let me begin by speaking to that issue.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Do you wish to speak to the first section?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: If I might. The current rule is that we have 10 legislative days to introduce bills. That is the current rule. I say for this session only, for '86 only, I would like to shorten that time to seven legislative days. I would like to knock three legislative days off the introduction time period. The purpose of that frankly is to be an inhibitor, an inhibitor on the aggregate number of bills that will be introduced. The Pages are passing out...putting on your desk a little chart which shows the history of bill introductions in the Nebraska Legislature from 1975 through 1986. Senator DeCamp made a point and I would like to talk about his point. Senator DeCamp says, you know, boys and girls, he says, we have been through all of this before, he says, and how interesting it is, he says, the years that we have any kind of limitation on bills in our rules, we always end up introducing more bills because we get around them than the years that we don't have any limitation. Well, I stopped to check with the deputy clerk for a moment to see exactly what years we took the limitations off and it turns out we took them off in '83, '84, and '85. They came off in '83, '84, and '85. They were on, however, in '79, '80, '81, and '82. Now when I look at the years when we had some kind of limitations on, lo and behold, we had fewer bills introduced, notwithstanding the representation of Senator DeCamp to the contrary. I mean limitations have had some effect but the thing that is so striking to me about the chart, what is so