

January 16, 1986

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers. Speaking lineup after this is Senators Vickers, Higgins, Labedz, Marsh, Wesely, Warner and Lamb.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the motion to reconsider. Yes, these issues may be changed down the line, but I want to be sure that we get a chance to reconsider and debate some of the issues involved. The format may be changed and it may not. I am concerned that it may not and I want to be sure that it does. Quite frankly I want to say that I rather resent the inference that we are special interest, or even to the extent of looking beyond the end of my nose. I don't believe we are anymore special interest than anybody else in this Legislature, those that are supporting this reconsideration. We were handed an awful large package the other day. I don't think we should have had the whole package to consider at one time. I think we could have taken it apart just a little bit. I think it was too much of a package to digest at one time. I realize that there are always some possibility that some changes should be made, but the criticisms that I can see that were made of our present system were mainly in the matter of references. I very seriously question the wisdom of eliminating the one committee. I think it is a very important committee, it considers issues that should be considered in one committee rather than being considered by each committee separately, whatever it might refer to, and that is a matter of Constitutional Revision. But I would like to just suggest that in Washington we don't have...the farmer does not have much voice anymore. We are a very...the farmers are a very small minority, and we say, well, in Washington we don't have much representation. I was surprised the other day that a majority of the Legislature was willing to relegate agriculture to a minor committee. The most important industry in the State of Nebraska and we decide we only have one day's time for agriculture issues for hearings. I believe if the agriculture interests in the state become aware of this and understand it they are going to resent the fact that the most important industry in the State of Nebraska has been relegated to a very minor committee. I think there are some other problems in that whole revision plan that can be changed and must be changed. But I think we need to reconsider it. I certainly hope that we will