

January 16, 1986

I've heard people make jokes about Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee and how illogical that connection is, not that both subjects aren't important, they are. But I think that the new system will perhaps deal with those adequately and in a way that makes a lot more sense to us. May I remind you that we have just made a somewhat significant change in the direction the way we are going to deal with appropriations. I'll admit I voted against that, probably for the same reason some of you are concerned about this. None of us are real crazy about change and we always wonder, well, how is that going to affect my little domain, but I'm convinced that the Appropriations Committee, the change that we adopted and the rules to that, may in fact result in a better educated body and better budgeting decisions, and even though we've had some reservations about that, I don't think we are going to see the end of the world, and we may in fact see some very positive things come out of that. If you don't take a few...advantage of a few opportunities, I don't think you ever accomplish anything, and we are about to fail to take advantage of an opportunity. I think perhaps the most positive and interesting thing about the rules change that we adopted is that I think it is well thought out and it will enable us to focus on some issues that frankly are issues of the eighties and of the nineties, up till the rest of this century. To stick with a system that has been around as long as ours are, I'm afraid it will draw us away from really attending to what is important. May I just point out a few things, I think if you look at future trends the issue of children is going to continue to be one that needs a lot of attention. You'll notice that by shifting where we place that, or at least a proposal, I think that is maybe something that won't necessarily happen. Some of these things obviously haven't been worked out in detail, but I think we ought to look at that. I think we ought to think about that. Same way with aging problems, we need to look at the demographics of this country and see where we are going and what kinds of issues we need to deal with and how to deal with the future rather than to cling to the past. Another one that frankly affects my area deeply, and anybody who lives outside of Omaha and Lincoln, is the problem of transportation. If you've tried to get to Chadron, or Crawford, or Broken Bow, or Alliance, or Scottsbluff from here, you know that it isn't always easy to do. This proposal leads us to look and focus on an issue that is particularly important and particularly crucial to the future of rural Nebraska. Same way with natural