

January 16, 1986

I stood on this floor many, many times and had to fight to keep bills in the Ag Committee that someone proposed to send to Government, or someone proposed to send to Public Health, or someone proposed to send to Public Works. It's kind of ironic that when the chairmanship changes some of those same positions are reversed. I would...I'm not entirely unmindful of the fact that I have shown a little bit of interest in public transportation and roads, and all of a sudden transportation winds up in a separate committee. Well, maybe that is the way it should be, I don't know. I think the most important thing to remember is this, regardless of what we do here today, regardless of whether we have a laudatory editorial or not, the situation is not going to change very much. Senator DeCamp refers to the energy bills that were heard by Banking. I ask you to go back and check the record. I think you will find that the energy bills began to be heard by Banking after Senator DeCamp became Chairman of the Banking Committee. The first energy bill in this Legislature, as I recall, was in 1971 when we created the bill which is now the, I guess the forerunner of the Nebraska Gasohol Committee. For many years those bills were heard, and I think to a certain extent some of them are still heard, by the Ag Committee, and I think rightly so. But there is overlapping interests there. Notwithstanding the fact that the Banking Committee did an excellent job on many of those bills that had to do with energy, there isn't any sector of our economy that is more interested in energy than agriculture. So I have a good argument when I say we ought to hear all energy bills in the Ag Committee. I recall very vividly when Senator Kremer became Chairman of Public Works. He and I worked out an agreement. It wasn't anything official, just sort of a I guess a friendly agreement. Public Works would take the bills that had to do with water, and Ag would deal with those bills that were related to land use. It stayed there for many years. As chairmanships change, as the Legislature changes you are going to find that those prerogatives will change. I want to suggest just one more thing. I'm glad to see this resurgence of support for agriculture on this floor. I hope that continues throughout the legislative session. There will be many, many opportunities for you to show that you are concerned about agriculture. I've seen a multitude of bills that have been introduced, some by the Ag Committee, some by Senator Haberman, some by Senator DeCamp, some by myself, some by others, that have to do with the future of agriculture. I would hope that we don't just take