

January 16, 1986

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'm merely saying again, I support going back to the old way. I'm not afraid of change. What I am afraid of is the dictatorship in the Legislature where the Executive Board gets together and says, let's have the Rules Committee do a study that under the rules should have properly come before the Committee on Committees. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers. Senator Beutler is next.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, because there has been some discussion relating to the subject of agriculture, relating to the amount of influence that we should give that particular industry with our committee structure, let me remind you that we have got a committee of Banking, Commerce and Insurance. We've also got a Business and Labor Committee. Now, if you really can think of a definitional difference between business and commerce, I'd be interested in what it might be, so there is some overlap there. But I would like to tell you that if we are interested in promoting business in this state, if we want to, to use a buzz word that everybody wants to use this year, economic development, maybe we're not doing my industry a favor by having an Agriculture Committee. I have finally come to the conclusion that...and I don't mean this probably the way some folks are going to take it, but I have finally come to the conclusion that agriculture is not a way of life. Agriculture is a business. I would suggest that maybe we'd be more important, we'd give it more importance if we'd say, you know, we're going to have a Commerce and Business Committee someplace, if you want to talk about the importance of agriculture, and put agriculture in there. I have quit telling people that I'm a farmer or a rancher. First of all, I'm an entrepreneur. We tend to love entrepreneurs in this country unless they're a farmer or a rancher and then we say, when they get in trouble they were poor managers. Secondly, I'm a businessman, pure and simple. Next time I go to a cocktail party and somebody asks me what I do I'm going to tell them I'm a businessman and let them figure out what kind of business I'm in, whether I'm selling overshoes or cows. I think we put too much emphasis on the fact that agriculture is something