

January 17, 1986

Eret's argument that this is a bad idea will not change because of the rule suspension or not because those bills will be introduced, regardless. The reason why we would like to suspend the rules and be able to introduce these as a committee is because, of course, there are some very controversial issues on this list and there are some far-reaching changes that could take place and there will be likely a lot of opposition to many of these proposals including opposition from within our committee. So if there is a way to make the public understand, those that are interested, make them understand that this isn't the idea of one senator or a very few senators, that they are saying that this has to be done, that we think this is the best thing for state government, to eliminate that problem, we would like to be able to bring these to you as a package and explain that it is not necessarily the will or the recommendation of the Appropriations Committee that all these ideas are good or of any members of this body that all these ideas are the proper thing to do publicly for the State of Nebraska, but rather to concentrate on in order to have us as a body fulfill our obligations to present a budget that says, here is our funds, here is our appropriation, and that balances, because we constitutionally are required to do so. In order to do that, this process is a necessary function. Obviously if we have a budget that is passed on this floor that is beyond the amount of funds that we have available and passed on this floor, we are in constitutional violation and we cannot do that. The only way that we can have a budget that can be passed on this floor is to also pass the revenue package along with it. Right now we have no way of assuming what revenue package will be here, we have no way of assuming whether we will have any change in any of the statutes regarding revenue. We only have the ability to tell you or to tell the body, tell the public, what our level of spending can be under the existing revenue picture.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: In order to do that, in order to make our budget fit within the existing revenue picture, it is necessary for us to reduce expenditures from the current level. The only way we can reduce expenditures to a current level according to the budget requests submitted to us is to introduce and eventually pass legislation that will allow us statutorily to eliminate some programs that would require