

February 12, 1986 LB 772

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Chair is overruled. We are back to the Beutler motion. Excuse me, it is the Hoagland motion. I'm sorry.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I would simply ask the body at this time to suspend the rules so we can vote on the bill without any further debate or any further amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, I have your light on.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, folk have asked me to call the question, but I know if I call the question, the Speaker would rule that out of order because there has not yet been any debate on the suspension motion. A suspension motion is always debatable and that simply means we will have further debate. I want to make a very simple point. Legislatures stand to give voice to majoritarian interests. Sometimes majorities are wrong, but legislatures stand to give voice to majoritarian interests. If, in the process of giving voice to those interests, a strong minority voice is able to prevent a Legislature from coming to a conclusion about a majority interest, that Legislature does its own function in life a disservice in allowing that strong minority voice to prohibit and preclude the formation of a majority value. Every Legislature has to be able to bring an issue, in the end, to a vote so that a majoritarian interest is reflected, right or wrong, so that it is reflected. In the Nebraska Legislature the suspension motion is the only device that this Legislature has to permit an issue to be voted upon, right or wrong. I respect suspension motions. I have used suspension motions. They are valuable tools to the Legislature to permit a majority to prevail. I will support Senator Hoagland's suspension motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem, then Senator Higgins. Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. At three minutes to twelve, Senator Hoagland said he wanted to suspend the rules because there were so many priority bills that had not been heard and, therefore, we would not take up Senator Chambers' amendments. The people that were on the same side as Senator Hoagland then began to debate the