

February 26, 1974

I know a number of other bills that have been killed and an number of other Senators have stated that they are going to raise these bills. I went over the list of bills that are going to be raised and they all fall into one category. A category that I would call the box bills. By that I mean they are not going to really accomplish anything this year. They stand almost no chance of actual passage on this floor. They are very complex and difficult to understand, and probably need a lot more study. But they put everybody in the Legislature in a box. Because on the surface they appear to be a clear cut case of solving some great injustice, or reaching a solution on some major problem, or right here immediately this year. When in fact they don't. As you heard stated on this particular box bill. It can't accomplish anything this year. All it is in ending up like some many of these others, as being pretty much a political year bill that puts people on the spot. And it's doing something much more tragic. It's using up the remaining 26 days we have. You can all look in front of you and see that you have on this side a couple hundred bills of consequence that the committees have studied that they have put out into this Legislature. And that have to be dealt with. As every Senator in this body knows, we have yet to deal with one major bill. We have State Aid to handle, we have taxation. We have revenue and budget. We've got to get through these things, and we've got to do it without that ceremony we've gone through sometimes in the past of having a last three, four or five day scramble in which a great deal of incoherent things go on here. Bills are rapidly passed. A lot of them are misunderstood, and we don't dignify the Legislature or the State of Nebraska before performing a ceremony like that. But I see happening in these bills that are being attempted to be raised, something more tragic than anything else, and that is slowly by surely tearing this Legislature apart to render us ineffective on other things. For example, in the short fifteen or twenty minutes we've just listened to debate, we've Senators call each other liars, we've liable each other allegedly, we've heard other claim that senators walk out, aren't involved in debate. What I'm saying is, we're slowly tearing apart the fabric that makes this place function. And if we are going to spend all of our time on these box bills, raising things from the dead that aren't going to be able to be passed, aren't going to accomplish something, we're going to reach the end of the session having accomplished very little or what we will accomplish will have been done in chaos. Now I have a box bill up there that I said I'm going to raise. And it's one that will really put everybody in a box. Budget Limitation. And I can get up here and I can waste an entire morning. Explaining to every Senator on this floor how this is going to get taxes under control how it's going to put a limitation on government spending from the lowest to the highest level. And I can really put you on the spot. Like all of these other bills are designed to do. But that bill won't pass. And I know it. Therefore I'm not going to try to raise it. I would recommend very strongly that the other Senators who are planning to raise all these other bills from the dead, recognize what we have before us and give up on some of these ideas until a more appropriate time and solve the immediate problems we have.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers. And then Senator Stahmer and then Senator Frank Lewis.