

January 12, 1978

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, I really don't want to get involved in this and I don't care too much how it is done but I would just like to read you an article from the paper I just received from Blue Hill which is in my district. There is going to be a program called "Leap on Lincoln Day" which all the project clubs of the State of Nebraska are going to be down here. I believe they have designated four different days. I would like to read part of this. It says, "According to the Home Extension Agent, the day long program will provide Nebraskans with an opportunity to both observe and become involved in the legislative process. Participants will tour the State Capitol, observe a session of the Unicameral and attend a public hearing." Now I am sure we don't want to gear our whole program around this but I think it is a factor that we ought to think about, how do the people look at it out state? I am not sure they are going to be all that happy. The 26th is the date that our group will be coming. Yes. I think there are three other dates real close to that, but anyhow, I think this is something we should take into consideration. How do we look to the public outstate? I am sure that they can't set their date and make us work around it but it might be one factor in your thinking. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would oppose the proposed, I would oppose Senator Carsten's request because the times have already previously been set and published, in some instances. It appears to be a more economical use of time to concentrate the public hearings in an all day session. The Appropriations Committee has done this successfully in November and December before this legislative session started. I certainly approve of the proposed idea which was presented to us early so that we had an opportunity to consider it in depth. I feel that we should uphold this plan which was presented by our Speaker. It will help move the Legislature through its business in the most economical use of time. It will be more useful to those who come from out of our city for public hearing because they are more concentrated than otherwise could be accomodated. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak. Senator Newell. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support Senator Carsten's motion. I think that we are breaking precedent and a number of years ago when the sixty and ninety day sessions were established, this was the method that was used. The Legislature was meeting in the afternoon, and as I travel around my district, I catch this question all the time. You spend ninety days but you didn't get out until June 2nd and that is hard to explain. Now if we do this this year, then next year, what is going to happen? We will have established a precedent and next year there is a good chance that we will go into all day committee hearings, and then instead of getting out on June 2nd like we did this year, you are going to be a long time later than that. I don't think that people are going to understand that and I do not think that that is what the people out there expect of the Legislature. Thank you.