

not what the effect is on our brother and sister states. Senator Venditte, that's just the problem, you do not perceive. You do not understand the relationship of intergovernmental relations with the State of Nebraska and the Unicameral Legislature. Up until the last couple of years, no Speaker of the Nebraska Legislature was ever recognized by any of these organizations and yet when you went to the meetings the leadership of these organizations was made up of Speakers and Presidents pro tem and majority and minority leaders from all the states of the union. Nebraska was left out. For the years I've been in the Legislature I've been very active in these organizations and I was left looking at all of the other state leaders and saying I don't have one. I don't even have one. Now, I happen to have backed into leadership in the National Conference of State Legislatures. Thanks to a few people in this Legislature we went to a convention, National Convention of the NCSL, and I was nominated for a position. Not because I was a Speaker because I wasn't Speaker yet and we didn't win but because of the fact that my name was put up there occurred a vacancy within a couple of months and the Executive Committee of the National Conference appointed me to fill that vacancy. I backed in, I then became Speaker. Now, I join the other Speakers, majority and minority leaders, the other Presidents pro tem. I'm telling you it has a tremendous effect that the Speaker of this Legislature sit on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Unless you understand an intergovernmental relations between all the 50 states you don't understand the problem at all and I'm telling you it's important. It's important to the State of Nebraska. It was extremely important when the question came up that the NCSL played a major role in it. It was extremely important when Senator Schmit became Chairman of the Ag Committee of the National...one of the nine major committees of the National Conference. It was extremely important when Senator Bereuter was appointed to head one of the nine committees of the National Conference. Do you think for a moment that Nebraska with half of the representation in these bodies would have ever been able to obtain these major appointments had we not been represented on the Executive Committee. I'll tell you they would not. Now, if you want to proceed without any input, any help in these particular organizations, go ahead the way we did it for years. But, I think that you better start thinking about leadership, what leadership means and if people are willing to lead, allow them to lead. But, if you don't want it, vote against this sort of a change. If you want that kind of leadership, vote for it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to speak in favor of the proposed rule change and I want to explain that I think we're getting far afield in this. We're talking about whether the present chairman and whether the patronage has been spread out evenly and that sort of stuff. That's not the issue here at all. The issue here is that the Nebraska Legislature has very few leaders. We have no leadership. We're not a partisan body and so, therefore, without that partisanship, without that leader we are unable to work things and direct things and move things. The Speaker of the