

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, shall the house go under call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The house is under call. Will you please return to your seats and record your presence. All those not in the Chamber, please return to the Chamber and record your presence. Unauthorized personnel please leave the floor and please record your presence promptly. Two are excused.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, I'll just go ahead and begin. The house is under call. People can check in during the course of my remarks. I knew we would be under call in any event for this vote, so I thought I might as well get the ball rolling and I am not so vainglorious to think that I need to have the house under call when I make my final remarks as though they will change people's opinions or what have you. So if I might, I would begin.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You may.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I thought I would take a few moments, my good friends and colleagues and Mr. Speaker, to deal with some of the points that have been raised during the last one hour and forty minutes by various individuals. Senator Rupp noted that it is not inappropriate for a legislature to periodically examine the Constitution and to recommend change, when upon that examination, a change is found to be warranted. Senator Rupp, in effect, discounts argumentation made by me and by others that Initiative 300 has only been in place 4 years now and, accordingly, it ought not to be changed. My response to the point made by Senator Rupp is as follows. (a) It is important for us to periodically examine our Constitution and where change is necessary, recommend that change. (b) Most provisions in the Nebraska Constitution have either come into the Nebraska Constitution by virtue of a constitutional convention or in the alternative, by virtue of legislative amendments. Since 1912, only six times, only six times have the people in Nebraska put provisions in their Constitution by the initiative process. The last time it was done before 1982 was in 1966. There is only one member in this body who has been here long enough to remember that change. That was