

May 23, 1979

see if there is anybody that wants to speak to this. Senator Simon, do you wish to speak to the Maresh amendment? We're on the Maresh amendment. Did you hear...okay. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to speak to the Maresh amendment?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Cal Carsten yesterday when he was addressing this subject said something like this, and I realize nobody is really paying attention, but I think this is an important subject because it's us we're talking about. Senator Carsten said, when he goes home the people ask him, why do you guys introduce so many bills? And he said he told them, because we're irresponsible. I don't think that's correct. I think the reason we introduce, if you want to use the words "so many bills" is because a hundred and some years ago when our forefathers set up this state they put something unique into the Nebraska Constitution, and instead of all these games of trying to limit this and have a four-fifths vote or a five-fifths vote or whatever on bill limitation, which is just jousting windmills, let's face up and understand why we're doing what we're doing and how the system functions. They wrote into our Constitution a provision that every subject, every idea had to have a special bill, had to have a public hearing, and the reason for that was so that you wouldn't get one bill and have about a hundred different things in there and have them all linked together. The reason was for the public's protection. Now this silliness, and I call it silliness, of saying a committee, whether it's Appropriations or Judiciary or Urban Affairs, is limited to ten bills. You don't know what business is going to be there. You don't know how many bills are needed for a particular subject. The minor corrections to the accountants' bill this year took about eight bills. Little dinky things, but they took the bills. In the U. S. Constitution there is no such prohibition, and as a result of that you have situations such as the military or defense bill passing and then as it goes along they put riders on it. Maybe somebody wants a hospital over in their district. Somebody else wants another porkbarrel project over here, and finally the thing has all these other things, and to get the defense budget the President has to sign the whole thing or veto the whole thing. We don't have that situation because of our ability and our requirement in the Constitution to have every single subject dealt with in a separate bill with a separate public hearing. If you do this, if you put these bill limitations, there is a very simple