

January 9, 1980

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I empathize with Senator Clark and with Senator Nichol and probably Senator Haberman and Senator Cullan and I know this creates a tremendous inconvenience for them and I empathize with them on that basis because they do have a long distance to travel but I also empathize with the people of the State of Nebraska and especially in Senator Clark and Senator Nichol and Senator Haberman and Senator Cullan's districts because there is no way those people with the mails as they are can get a bill and read them, digest them, plan testimony in time to get down here and testify before this Legislature on these early hearings. Now if we are going to run this body for our own benefit, then fine, but if we are going to think of the people of the State of Nebraska then I think this amendment is absolutely essential, the DeCamp amendment to the original rule change. In fact, I would support half of the original rule change. I think this year is too quick to change it. It should start in 1981 but certainly there is nothing wrong with two weeks. I have had people...I have been a committee chairman and we would schedule bills and I had people come to me the week after the committee hearing saying, my gosh, we didn't even get the material. We weren't even aware of it. We were not even aware of it much less having an opportunity to look at it, to discuss it, to digest it and plan a particular strategy on it. So I support the compromise. I think a week is not unreasonable and I think that we have to think in terms of constituents. We have to think in terms of the voters. I think that has got to be the number one priority. I think it is an excellent rule change and I would urge everybody to support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, did you want to speak on the amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: I want to address the amendment because I think it is the middle ground that most of us here on the floor can support. I want to remind the body of two things, #1, the idea of a recess, whether it be one week or two weeks, is an idea that came to us as a part of the process of the subcommittee on which I serve, in sampling public opinion, in sampling the opinions of administrators and interest groups and people who deal with the Legislature on a day to day basis. These ideas came to us from the public. We did not invent these ideas. Secondly, I want to appeal to the spirit of the Legislature which has always stood behind the personal sacrifice of senators for the public purpose of better legislation. Each of us serves here under the most difficult of circumstances