

January 12, 1981

CLERK: Okay.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are now discussing the Lamb amendment. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, how soon we forget history. I oppose the Lamb amendment. I also oppose the original Wesely amendment. I oppose them both because I believe that the rule that is in the book right now represents the best policy, and the problem with our discussion so far has been that we have focused on our own desires on what is easiest for us as Senators and not on what the public has asked for, not on what the public wants. For those of you that were here last year let me refresh your memory on the history of this rule and how it developed. For those of you that are new let me simply give you that history as I understand it. Two years ago there was a committee formed, the LR 168 Committee formed an interim study committee to study the rules of the Legislature. That committee was headed by Senator Marvel, Senator DeCamp, Senator Schmit, Senator Fowler, all the leading lights of the Legislature. We broke down into subcommittees. One of the subcommittees had to do with this particular...included working on this particular rule. What the subcommittee did was send out between 300 and 400 letters to different lobbying organizations, to different citizen groups, to everybody known to the subcommittee to be interested in the Legislature, and we said, come back to us and tell us about our legislative procedure, what is good, what is bad, what troubles you, what causes problems. The number one thing they came back with was the fact that bills filed early and heard early in committee snuck up on them a lot of the time, and it is interesting to note that this cry came loudest from Western Nebraska, that the newspapers out there don't cover state events as well as local papers do and I have noticed looking through some of those recently is that they unfortunately do not. So they said what we need is a period of time between the bill introduction period and between the beginning of committee hearings when these things can be digested to be sure that everybody has a chance to react in a rational manner. Okay, so the committee came out with a rule that stated, and I want to say what the original rule was so that you can see this has been compromised down a number of times already. The original rule was that for a two week period after each bill introduction period in both sessions there would be a recess. That recommendation then went to the Rules Committee and the Rules Committee compromised