

January 13, 1981

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, whenever we begin to try to solidify things in a rule, it is impossible that every possible situation can be covered. So if we have a proposition whereby after two and a half hours a cloture vote could be taken, and let's say the votes are there to result in cloture, it would be very easy, as Senator Dworak suggested, to prevent certain necessary information from coming into the record simply by those who want cloture loading up with nonsensical amendments that won't touch the serious issues that need to be considered and they will take the two and a half hours without the other side having an opportunity to speak at all, and I have seen instances on products liability, on the abortion bill and other matters where sides were drawn up and responsibilities were parceled out to people as to what role they would play. So if a matter is to come up for hearing in the form of debate on General File, Select, or wherever, all that would have to be done is for the side that does not want the issue totally discussed to put a lot of amendments up there and carry the discussion for two and a half hours. Then without the other side having a word spoken, one of their side stands up and say, Mr. President, I move for cloture and they get the votes and all debate is ceased and the bill slides through on greased skids, and if some of the new senators don't think that these lobbyists have the power to do that, check the new car dealers, check the doctors and the insurance companies when they wanted product liability to limit the right of a person who is injured to recover. I have been here. Medical malpractice. I have seen it work. These things sound good to people who are uninitiated into the realities of how this Legislature works, and in the flush, perhaps, of these organizational victories of these first few days, you feel that it is going to remain a tight little coalition as it exists now but issues are going to separate people. Lobbyists are going to call in their chips, and even though you are a "republican", they are going to tell you, "I don't care about that now. That is between you and the Governor, you and Heineman, you are going to deliver on this issue now or you are not going to be reelected and I don't care what the Governor, Heineman or anybody else says because we know how to get the votes. We know how to defeat people"; and you begin to shake in your boots, you will feel that bone in your spine begin to kind of weaken a bit and soften and turn into Jello. The boney knees turn into plastic and at the first wind of opposition they begin to shake. Then the feet turn into rollerskates and you begin to move with great speed away from the positions that you took with such certitude at these early days in the session before you knew what was in store. The new senators are being fatted like the calf or the turkey who is fatted only for the purpose of