

January 13, 1981

SENATOR MARSH: I am afraid the amendment might pass and I'd like it in a little more palatable form even though I am not supporting the amendment.

SENATOR RUMERY: I get a little weary of this thing of us attaching these numbers on that are way out of proportion to the majority and we have said all along that the majority rules. Well, in these cases, the majority doesn't rule but the minority rules. Now I think we ought to give some consideration to that.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just in answering Senator Rumery's question, I might just comment that my original draft of it had a majority vote, too, and I suppose the question is really part a political one. If you are interested in a cloture rule, then the first thing to do is to get one in place and start working with it. Now if you make it a majority vote immediately, then you should ask yourself in your own minds, is there a realistic possibility of that getting passed by this body at this time.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, my light was on actually to talk about another matter but I would like to just say something briefly about this and I would like to remind the body that we are talking about developing the first cloture rule that this Legislature has had and that that is an important precedent that is going to be set here. Now the question of whether or not how important it is or are those things really have to be set in some sort of a context and the context is not an easy thing to set. But I think before we move to set up a very strict or very easy or whatever kind of cloture rule we want that we really have to look back at the precedent and that precedent is do we want to say that the Nebraska Legislature is no longer a deliberative body; do we want to say that really we are more interested, instead of fully debating and fully discussing issues, that we are more interested in finding out who has got the votes and pushing bills through. Now if that is in fact what this Legislature was set out to be, and I don't believe it was, then this may not be a bad precedent and maybe two-thirds is more palatable than three-fourths or a majority is better than any of them but I think we really have to analyze for a brief moment the importance of the whole issue and that is the precedence of cloture. Do we in fact want to say to the people of Nebraska that we are more interested in production than we are in quality? Do we want to say to the people in Nebraska that we