

April 7, 1981

LR 284

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers. This issue is still to pass over the bill.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker, members, I think that it is rather amazing to me, I'm fairly glad I guess that the balconies aren't full. This would look kind of funny I believe, or rather humorous to the public. What we are discussing here is whether or not we want to discuss this bill on the floor and we have been discussing it now for an hour, almost, whether or not we want to bring it up. I think if I was up in the balcony watching as a citizen of the State of Nebraska I would wonder about this deliberative body. Especially when people get up on the floor and say we don't want to discuss it out here on the floor we want to discuss it in a group meeting somenlace. I would wonder about the open meetings law that we have in the State of Nebraska. I would wonder about whether or not my elected representative was being a part of these discussions that they are having in the meetings wherever they are having them or whoever is having them. If that is the way we are going to address legislation in this body then I suppose that there is a number of them that we should make sure that we have certain collations put together before we bring it to the floor and it goes across with flying colors. It smacks to me the way the political parties might operate in the caucus systems on the federal level or states other than Nebraska that the democratic and republican parties get together and say this is the way we are going to. . . the stand we are going to take and the vote is more of a formality out on the floor. I don't think the people in the State of Nebraska want that and I don't think that they like it and I object to it. Senator Haberman says that is fine that the leadership should put things together and bring it forth, whoever the leaders are, and we shouldn't be jealous of those leaders. Well I'm not jealous of any leder, I can assure you of that. He also suggested that we had certain meetings last year on state aid so that Omaha got certain things out of state aid and I rather resent that also. Especially when you look at the dollar figures that went out and it helped rural Nebraska more than it did the urban areas, which I thought it would at the time. I think there has been a lot of misunderstandings about the issue. I think that it is time we become statesmen. I agree with Senator Carsten to a degree I think that Senator Carsten is trying to put some sense into this thing and maybe he is trying to do it with a meeting. I think that it could have been done right here on the floor, Senator Carsten. I think if we follow leadership. If we want to talk about leadership then why don't we listen to the leaders when they do speak, those people that know something about it. But I object to going back to the smoke filled rooms, away from the reporters