

January 6, 1982

suspension of the rules is the only form of cloture left here. It is the only method when you get into an entanglement to do anything. Now you are saying, we take the majority and we make them even more meaningless. That Constitution that constantly talks about a majority of the Legislature deciding the rules, we walk in and we say, the majority decides to castrate ourselves literally and put it back to where the minority runs the Legislature of the State of Nebraska. If 33, why not 37, 39, 40? Why not get it so that one or two people here run things? Why not get it down to that level? Because that is what you have been trying to do, what Chris has been trying to do every year since he came here, keep getting it to where only a block of 5, 6, 8 or 10 can control the whole situation. And that is what you do if you go along with constantly taking away the power and authority of the majority. I urge you to reject this rule. It will come back to haunt you. If you do adopt it, I can live with any rule you want to lay down in here. I can survive under them. Ernie Chambers can. There is half a dozen people that can probably live pretty well with just any rule you want to throw out, whether it be cloture or anything else. Let me just point out how the cloture rule would have worked if somebody really did want to filibuster, for example. Now you just take five or six meaningless bills under the cloture rule that would have been adopted and you filibuster on them for each five hours. That's all you would have had to do to beat that one. So every time you try to create a new complicated rule to contain Rex or to contain Ernie or to contain me, Johnny, all you do is guarantee another day of the session and right now we are sitting here at two-eighteen, January 6, when we probably should be utilizing the rules we've been working with and that VonMinden knows and Higgins knows. We all know what they are pretty well because they have worked with them for a year and we are saying, "Senator VonMinden, now that you kind of got acquainted with the way we play in here, we are going to change all the rules of the game and start you from scratch again." Why don't we just get to the business of the Legislature, General File, processing our business and quit trying to change everything and start us all over from scratch. I urge you to reject the rule but as I say, I'll probably live with it as well as anybody else should you decide to adopt it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, not often does Senator DeCamp and I acknowledge openly and notoriously that we agree on an issue but we agree on more things than people may realize and we have different ways of getting at the same thing. You won't know whether, when