

January 6, 1982

Two other things about our Constitution of this state that make us so cotton pickin' unique that this is what you ought to be telling the people instead of, "oh, we all introduce too many bills." We're one of the few states, maybe the only state in the United States that in our Constitution we say, in our Constitution we say, "every idea has to have a separate bill, a separate bill." Why? So we don't do the same thing that they do in other states and in the Congress. What is that sin? That's taking, for example, the military budget bill and then putting a hospital on it. In other words, riders. You can only have one idea in a bill here but in the Congress you get a bill that they have to have, the budget bill or whatever, you can load it up with everything in the world. Nebraska? No. You want to pass an idea, that idea has to stand on its own merit. You've got to sell it itself. It can't ride piggyback on something else. That is what our Constitution protected the people out there and that's the reason for the large number of bills and then we've provided something else. We've said that every idea you propose has to have a separate public hearing on its own merits, that idea. Not so in the Congress. You just hook them on. Not so in other states. You just hook them on as they go across. You get a strong pony, a strong bill that has to be passed and then you just load it up with your stuff, pork barrel here, pork barrel there. You can't do that in Nebraska. You have two subjects in a bill then. You've got to have every idea live and die in its own merits. So before you get back in this panacea of limiting yourselves on bills as if this is going to magically solve all the problems of the world, and before you go gung ho to take your power away and dump it on the Governor, and we don't know whether the Governor knows what to do with it anyway, before you do that, recognize that that Constitution made you a legislator, a lawmaker. Those people voted you in. If you're afraid of it, go on home but don't quit trying to give up your power all the time and your authority and your responsibility. I would urge rejection of the whole concept of the limitations in this area. You've got the directions in the Constitution. They are there. Every idea, single bill. Public hearings. You're the lawmakers, face up to that responsibility. Tell the people what the reason for a large number of bills are. When twenty people in your district come up with twenty separate little problems, at least in the Legislature of the State of Nebraska they have an opportunity to get that idea heard, heard in the public hearing, presented to the people. That doesn't happen in other states. Quit trying to destroy it.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, did you want to talk on the amendment? All right. Senator Newell, did you want to talk on the amendment? Senator Vard Johnson, do you want to talk on the amendment?