

October 30, 1981

PRESIDENT: All right, the motion carries and debate ceases. Senator Hoagland, will you close.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I think all of us very clearly want to limit this session to just the necessary purposes. We all have businesses to conduct. We are all under a lot of pressure back at home in our legislative districts. None of us really want to expand this beyond the issues that really have to be dealt with and I think there is general agreement that we have got to do something about the budget. We need to take into account the problems that we have. We need to deal with that issue effectively and directly but I don't think there is really any need in doing that to limit ourselves to only bills introduced at the request of the Governor. I think that quite clearly infringes on the integrity and independence of this body. We are, after all, an independent branch of government. We do, after all, have a Speaker who I think all of us know is going to limit the debate and limit the bills to those that are directly relevant and germane to the purposes for which this session has been called and for us to automatically say that none of us forty-nine elected representatives from the State of Nebraska, members of this Legislature can even introduce a bill related to that subject, I think is really going too far. I don't think any of us intend to come in with bills. I surely don't intend to come in with bills but do we really want to limit the subject matter that we can consider to bills introduced solely at the request of the Governor? I think that has constitutional ramifications. It really does infringe upon our responsibilities as a third branch of government and we don't have to do that. We don't have to concede that much of our legislative power to the Governor. We will exercise that power discreetly and carefully ourselves. We will have a Speaker that will be sure that we will do that. None of us, I think, with just a few exceptions want to expand this beyond the purposes for which this session has been called so I would suggest that we adopt this amendment which conforms as Senator DeCamp has said with the Constitution to make it clear what our policy is going to be with respect to the introduction of bills this session. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The question then is the adoption of the amendment to the second amendment, the Vickers-Hoagland amendment to the DeCamp amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. It will require 25 votes. Record the vote.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 37 nays, Mr. President.