

people probably are out there teaching that shouldn't be, and maybe there ought to be more of it, getting rid of teachers that aren't competent, but after they fulfill this probationary requirement, there ought to be good solid reasons. That is what our statute says and that is what it should continue to say. To extend the probationary period so that a person can be fired for absolutely no reason through five years is, first of all I question the procedures of bringing a major change in our statute to the floor under the guise of amendment here. Secondly, I don't think it is the right thing to do, and if we are going to look at this continuing contract law, it ought to be done as other major changes in legislation are done through introduction of a specific bill, committee hearing process, and discussion of a bill in committee with the pros and the cons adequately discussed. I think it is inappropriate to suspend the rules to consider this amendment because it is an inappropriate amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce some guests, please, of Senator Coordsen. Under the north balcony, we have Mr. Gary Johnson, who is associated with Alpo Foods of Crete, Nebraska. Would you please stand and be recognized, Mr. Johnson. And Senator Coordsen also has a group in the south balcony this morning. There are 50 fourth grade students from Crete, Nebraska with their teachers. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us this morning. Now, Senator Hartnett, did you wish to speak on the suspension?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Overruling the Chair, but I think I want to make a point really is that I want to talk a little bit about his amendment. I think we are opening up, as I read the change that he is making up, that this period of time from three to five years is only, in the original statute, only deals with Class IV and V school districts, then we are opening it up to all class school districts. And so I really philosophically opposed what he was going to do on that merit, because I think we are changing the period of time from three to five years, but also we are opening up to more districts, and I have some difficulty with that particular part of the changes. And I agree with what Senator Withem said, if we really are going to do this, and maybe we need to look at this whole area of teachers continuing contract, and then we need to it in a introduction of a bill and so forth. I would like to give part of my time to Senator Wesely.