

January 4, 1990

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I understand the arguments that Senator Barrett and Senator Warner have argued against this rule change. But let me try and refute those and suggest that both Senator Nelson and Senator Chambers and myself are, hopefully, more correct in supporting this. What you have here is a situation where this Legislature has been held hostage by governors, and I say governors, not just this current Governor, but other governors in the past, and I've been one of those. Maybe each of you have had a similar experience. Now some of you haven't had that, and I'm glad for you. But some of us have, where we've passed legislation, and knowing that it passed at a point where we won't have a chance to override, I've been called into the Governor's office and I've been told that that bill is going to be vetoed unless I help out on that last day of the session on certain matters, and that's the way it is. And when I don't have a chance to respond to that, when I don't have a chance to override, to bring to you that issue and have you hopefully agree but maybe not agree, at least have the opportunity, then I have no card to play. I have no opportunity to respond to that sort of hostage holding intimidation that has occurred, not just with one governor but maybe as far back as any governor that had any ability to use power, has utilized here in the State of Nebraska. If you care about the Legislature, and you do, you wouldn't be here if you didn't care about it, you will want to support this, because this is our chance to have a level playing field. Yes, it's true, the last day of the session we may pass legislation and we won't have a chance to override. But the intent of this is clear. As far as we can, on appropriations bills, on other bills, not just appropriations bills, we want the chance, as best as we can, to have at least the opportunity to consider overriding. Now, yes, there will be times when amendments and other things will come into it and that last day we'll still end up passing legislation, we'll have tied our hands, we won't be able to deal with it. But again, as much as we can, let's do as much as we can ahead of time and use the calendars days to buffer us away from the sort of whipsawing that has occurred in the past. Now just last session Senator Nelson got up, there's a dozen of us that could get up about the different bills we had that we worked hard on, that we passed, in some cases we passed unanimously on this floor, unanimously, and then had no chance even to consider an override. Now you can disagree with that, you can say you wouldn't vote again for them and all that. I understand that. But the whole point is to not even have the