

January 8, 1990

Eight hours is usually an entire legislative day. You know, you can discuss a lot of things within eight hours. Multiply that times three and, obviously, throughout the process, you can debate a measure for 24 hours, and I think there is very few things in the last few years that we have debated more than 24 hours in a reasonable debate. Now the fact of the matter is that lots of times when we debate things more than eight hours, it is because one or two people or definitely a minority have chosen to hold the body hostage and go on forever and ever, it seems like, and I think the cloture rule, like I said, this is the same cloture rule I have been bringing to the Legislature for a number of years. I think it simply makes sense and it sets forth, the wording, you know you have eight hours to make a valid point on a bill and, hopefully, you know, it can be argued that what happens when eight hours is expired and there is still some valid points need to be made, obviously, it is my hope that those opposing the measure would obviously do the reasonable things, they'd have a chance first and get those taken care of. But, you know, in closing, in the closing for my opening, I want to reiterate the fact of the matter is the question this morning is not whether or not we should have a rule that allows us to cease debate because we already have one, but I think our present rule suspension method of invoking cloture is very unfair, very unreasonable, and by its very nature very much prohibits the voice of the minority. I think a rule like this would be much fairer, allow those in the minority more than adequate time to make their points, and then allow us in the end to do business as we were elected to do. I think all of us owe the voters of the State of Nebraska that type of behavior, and for that reason, I'd urge advancement or adoption of this rule.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, in baseball, Senator Moore, three strikes and you are out. As you pointed out, in your handout, you have had it three times and it has failed, and this is the fourth time around. I would hope that we would not change our rules because of specific issues that are confronting us this session. There has not been strong support for a cloture rule in the past and I hope there would not be support for it at this time. So rather than take a lot of time myself speaking at length against this immodest, close to being immoral, proposition, I am going to see what direction the debate goes. I do have some amendments which are not harassing type but that would be reasonable if you are going