

769, which forced me to do some things, and I say forced because it was a decision that I made, consciously made, was when we got to the point where 854 came out of committee and immediately there were nine motions filed. There were no amendments filed at the time, to my understanding. I think Senator Morrissey may have had one filed, but that came after all the motions. There were nine motions immediately filed on the bill. And if we would have taken up 854 at that particular time, or this evening, people ask why the bracket motions, why not give it a chance and so on. If we would have done so, we had the motions that would have once again not only moved it as we did as a body from General to Select, but from Select to Final, and from Final Reading there would also be the motion to cease debate, no further amendments. In other words, we would have had a bill, and I don't know if it's constitutional or not. I don't think any of us knows. I think it's certainly suspect. We'd have a bill that certainly was suspect on a topic that divided, deeply, Nebraskans, and we as a body were going to take that bill, put it through to Final Reading with no debate and no amendments. And I understand why that was done, I really do. Certainly lessons were learned on LB 769 I am certain. But whenever we get to a point that we in this country, whether it's a bill of mine, no matter what the bill is, that we're afraid of debate or the system, whether it's going to be abused or whatever by others, we're in deep, deep trouble. We set a very dangerous precedent, because I guarantee you this issue is very, very important, dearly to a lot of people in this country and this state, very important. But there will be another issue some other day, if not even next session, that will be equally as powerful, equally as...and deeply felt by Nebraskans or the people of this country that another group will say this is so important, we're going to slide it through without any amendments or debate because of what the opposition might do. And I wonder after we're dead and gone and historians come back and playfully look at a time in history that may not have even been very important, and somebody doing a thesis or doctoral will pick this time period in Nebraska politics, and it will be one of the most boring time periods, no one's picked it, that's why they chose it because they know they can get granted onto a thesis. They'll look at this particular time period...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and they'll compare what was done versus all the ideals of the country. And it will be