

Chairman of the committee, I can see where Senator Hall would want to discharge his duty and make a forum available to the public even though the time frame is so short that members of the public who may want to participate realistically will not have an opportunity to do so. I would rather that instead of getting into such a breakneck hurry to carry out the Governor's will...and I'm surprised some of my colleagues who pretend to love the legislative process so much and are praised by Dick Herman for loving that are not joining me in saying we should delay the public hearing until such time as the public can hear. But the purpose is not to give the public a hearing but to make the Governor's first step toward reelection a success. I'm going to support Senator Schmit's motion.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Hall, followed by Senator Warner.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, I rise in opposition to Senator Schmit's motion to reference the bills to General File and it's not because I am looking forward to the public hearings that we're going to hold tomorrow. The public hearings were scheduled, basically, for tomorrow because it did allow for additional time for the general public to get a look at the bills, at least, if nothing else, read the press reports, listen to the press reports on the bills that have been introduced. There had been some indication as to what was going to come in prior to yesterday. They, in their papers either last night or this morning, have I think gotten information that details what is in those eight bills. We were...I thought if we held the hearings this afternoon would be jumping the gun in terms of allowing folks from across the state the opportunity to testify on the various measures before us. Holding the hearings tomorrow, although it is Veterans' Day as recognized by the state, was I think the most opportune time to allow for complete discussion of the issues. Now that we have eight bills before us, we will spend the vast majority of the day from nine o'clock on dealing with all eight of those issues, in their entirety, in front of the committee. I understand Senator Schmit's concern. I would argue that the Revenue Committee would not look at these issues strictly from the viewpoint of eastern Nebraska but look at them from the viewpoint of the entire state. Our revenue system runs across the state. It is not limited to a certain geographic area of the state. I would also argue that I would appreciate Senator Schmit's testimony tomorrow before the Revenue Committee on these issues, and I would be very