

January 14, 1991

haven't gotten to the main appropriations budget. We work days, and days, and days on the main appropriations budget, and then finally we get to, at some point, senators bills. And, really, what I think is happening here, and I don't believe it's the intention of Senator Lynch, but what I think is happening is simply that I think members that have been here for a while understand that at some point when the money is really tight, and obviously we know this session that will be the case, if your bill, or if the thing that you want appears further down and we've already agreed to certain things ahead of time because they were good things to talk about, good things that need to be done, at some point the Legislature draws a line and nothing else is done because we just don't have any money. We reach that magical point where we, the body, draw the line. Sometimes we play games and spend more and let the Governor veto it back and so on. But, nonetheless, we do draw the line. What we're basically saying by the Lynch...excuse me, by the Rules Committee amendment three is that there is now a way that I can get what I want ahead of everybody else on the list. I don't just take my amendment or my bill on Select File and wait for it to come up in its turn. I go ahead and go to a committee, of which maybe I have five people that will agree with me, because we've made a whole bunch of nice little arrangements during the session, I get five people on a committee to agree with me, we make it a Standing Committee amendment, and, boom, it's on the desk, and, boom, it's got priority, boom, it's ahead of everybody else, and isn't that dandy. That's great for me. I would like to be able to do that, because it's going to put me ahead of everyone else. And when the train stops on appropriations or money, at least I got my priority done first. And I suspect that would be good for Omaha, I suspect that would be good for Lincoln, or even out in west Nebraska, or all Nebraskans to get theirs up front. The key is to find a committee then that will meet and do what you want to do. Doesn't make any difference what committee, it can be any committee. All I've got to do is find five people on any committee to agree with what I want for whatever deal I may have made with other people, and I have, bingo, instant priority, instant priority. That committee doesn't even have to have hearings to verify the fact that they know what they're doing on the budget. All this amendment does, it does not emaciate the amendment by the Rules Committee at all. The Rules Committee says, hey, we want to have some opens, we want to have some say in the Legislature's appropriations process, we need to have the agency come in and do a modified hearing, certainly not what is