

January 11, 1996

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is one aspect of it that they didn't consider. When the proposal is before us, whatever proposal the Speaker has determined is major, this is what the language says that Senator Bernard-Stevens wants to strike: "The Speaker can determine the scheduling of the proposal and the order of amendments and motions to be considered." That means any motion made can be...its order can be determined by the Speaker or determined by the Speaker not to be heard at all. So he can first rule a motion to overrule the chair out of...or the motion to suspend out of order, and he can rule any motion to overrule the chair out of order too. You all who drafted this have not thought it through, but I have, and I'm putting it on the record now so that when you get another one of these brainless rules that it takes no brains to use or understand, I'm going to show you that if we'd use some brains in considering it, this that I'm talking about would not have been left in the rule.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Wickersham. Senator Bernard-Stevens to close on his amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Chambers, I apologize. I mentioned I would give you some time, but I wanted to get to a vote on this amendment before 10:00 and it appeared that we'd be able to. Members of the Legislature, thank you for your attention in the matter and I know most of the noise was coming from the sidelines from people not members of the body and not the senators themselves, so if they could keep it down on the aisles that would be very helpful. I think if this amendment's agreed to, we'll be able to move on on the rules, get the permanent rules adopted later this morning and move on. A couple points I did want to make. If this is adopted, if this amendment is adopted there are some things in this rule that would be very helpful. Number one, every senator has a priority bill, that is true, but not all priority bills necessarily take all of the major issues. We some...there's only 49 priority bills. It would allow other issues to become...to come to the forefront if that, in fact, happens. So it does allow that if a bill...if a senator such as myself picks a bill that is not a good priority bill for the state of Nebraska, maybe just a personal thing that I'd like to do, it does allow the Speaker to pick out those bills that were not prioritized that are very, very important and work with committee chairs. That's number one and that will be very