

January 11, 1996

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Robinson would like to announce that Marty Jensen (phonetic), who's a student at Dana College, and spending some time in his office this week, is here. She is from Cairo, Nebraska. She's sitting next to me. Will you stand, Marty (phonetic), and be recognized. Thank you. Senator Bernard-Stevens, your light is next. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President. I was looking at the Executive Board, the people that the caucuses have voted to be on there, and quite honestly I have a lot of faith in those people. I don't know what...who Senator Beutler is afraid would be so obstinate to thwart the will of the entire state of Nebraska. We have Senator Coordsen now who is very fair and reasonable, Senator Vrtiska, well, Senator Vrtiska. But, nonetheless, Senator Vrtiska is very fair and reasonable. Senator Hartnett, Senator Janssen, Senator Kristensen, Senator McKenzie, Senator Robak, Withem, and ex officio, certainly Senator Wehrbein, all very fair and reasonable people. And when you're asking for some rule change that... No, Senator Chambers, I haven't mentioned you yet. But, when you're asking for a particular rule change, if you're saying that we would like to have unanimous support, that is a very good representation of the state of Nebraska. And then there is Senator Chambers, and we all know that Senator Chambers may, if he desires to, vote no, and so I think what Senator Will is really saying is that he may not have enough faith in some of the people that they put on the Exec Board. But the Omaha caucus decided that they were going to put their members on, because they obviously had a lot of faith that people would...in that...that they selected would represent the Legislature well, would be fair, and be a good asset to the Legislature and the state of Nebraska, and I believe that. Now, Senator Will has a difficulty maybe because he's a...he thinks that Senator Chambers may abuse the power, then maybe next year they have to reconsider how they elect their members to the Exec Board. But for the most part, I respect those people that have been put on the Exec Board, they are good people of the Legislature. And quite honestly, if you can get that Exec Board to unanimously agree, that is going to pave the way through this body that that which is chosen by the Speaker will have as smooth as sailing as possible. It makes sense that if you're going to give extraordinary power, that we, as the Legislature, need to take