

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 13, 1999

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then you have to kind of shamefacedly say, well, we've got a guy in the Legislature that we don't know how to deal with, so when the spirit moves us, we pass another rule to get him. And they say, well, after all this time you haven't gotten him? And you have to say, well, no. And then they say, well, how long does it take for lessons to be learned by people in the Nebraska Legislature? Brothers and sisters, repealing this will clean up our rule book while still leaving available vehicles to shut me up when enough of you really feel that's what you want to do. If you have any questions of me, I am prepared to answer them and I took the full ten minutes so that if any of you needed time to read the rule, itself, that I want to repeal, you would have had the opportunity to do that.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Bromm, please.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. And I went over and spoke with Senator Chambers when I saw the motion on the desk that was filed this morning. I have been on the Rules Committee, I'm still on the Rules Committee, and we have spent some time in the past trying to craft and draft rules that would facilitate debate on the floor of this Legislature. It's never been intended to be anything personal with respect to Senator Chambers. I can't say that if I were in his position that sometimes I wouldn't take it personally, perhaps I would, but it's not ever been intended that way. Let me explain to those of you who were not here last year and those of you who may not recall all the debate last year just why this rule was adopted. This rule, which indicates that the primary introducer of a bill and the Speaker and the Chairperson of the committee that heard the bill could jointly move that the bill be designated for structured debate. Now, that would take the concurrence of, in most every case, three people in fairly responsible positions. The reason for it is that we've had bills in the past, like major welfare reform bills, some crime packages, which, because of the extent of debate and the number of hours that occur on the first two or three amendments or four or five parts of the bill, we never get to debate the entire bill to the extent that we should on the floor of the Legislature to determine whether we're passing good quality legislation, whether we understand what we're passing or not.