

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

January 10, 2000

committee members on the Transportation Committee back to eight, and the reason I'm going to do that is I've served on committees that had...have odd-numbers of people on them, not odd people, just odd numbers. I have served on Business and Labor, and I've served on Appropriations. The...it's a lot easier to get a bill out of committee that's controversial if you have an odd-numbered...if the number of members on a committee are odd numbered. On an eight-member committee, it takes five votes to get it out of committee. On a nine-member committee, it takes five votes to get it out of committee. And I understand with our three caucuses nine works real nice, but I...I think we may see an increase in the workload on the floor if we permit our committee structure to go from even-numbered committees to odd-numbered committees. So that's my comments and that concludes my remarks.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President, members of the body, first when this came out, well, I thought they was just talking about Transportation and Telecommunications, which I was in favor of, but after we got it clarified, well, I'm in favor of Senator Chambers' amendment to put that back to eight so that we could then vote on Transportation and Telecommunications for the...for the name of that committee, and I think that would put it back. I realize then when we get down to the end, if things are changed, we might have to come back, work on the numbers again, but right now, far as I'm concerned, this change that the...to make it so it's the Transportation and Telecommunication, I'm in favor of that, but from then on I don't know if I'm going to be in favor of any of the rule changes that we're talking about today. But, anyway, I can reserve them remarks till later too. So thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise in support of Senator Chambers' amendment. I just wanted to renew some of your thinking processes, particularly those on the Exec Board. We had this discussion when I was on the Exec Board about some changes and one of them was to change the Agriculture Committee and call it the Agriculture and Economic