

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

January 10, 2000

surprised at that. And I...I do think that I have to also acknowledge the fact that the Rules Committee has done a lot of work, they've gone through lots of effort. I did receive a call early on from one of the committee members asking what I thought about these issues. And I still...I still don't understand. I know the need for more time for the Judiciary Committee, and I don't want to...wouldn't have...I wouldn't want to even begin to try to understand how that could be changed over there without making change. But I still object to the merger of the Ag Committee with the Natural Resources Committee. And I think what Senator Chambers is getting at is, if we don't accept the merger of the Appropriations and Revenue Committee, why in the world would we want to merge Natural Resources and Ag? I mean, it's about the same difference, we do different things. We are not the watch dog of agriculture in Nebraska, the Natural Resources Committee is. We are more involved with providing input into production agriculture, and then Natural Resources looks at the other side of it, to see if we're doing it correctly or incorrectly. So there is a difference. It plays a vast difference in what we go on...what goes on here. I...I think that we may not have as many bills as other committees. The last couple years we've had more than we had for the number, the first four or five years I was chairman of the committee. But we do have some pretty weighty bills, I think extremely important, that deserve the full attention of the Ag Committee. One of them was the bill we talked about FIFRA, the fungicide, insecticide and herbicide bill that...the bill that was brought onto us by EPA. It was necessary that we do that legislation, and it came through Ag Committee. I think that there are...we've had some pretty weighty bills just last year; this year we have some more that are extremely important dealing with carbon sequestration, dealing with biotechnology, the GMO's, the genetic and modified organisms. These are legis...this is legislation, the biotech legislation is going on nationwide in all the state Capitols right now, it's extremely important, and it's...I think it is...it indicates...should indicate to you, it does to me anyway, the importance of having an Ag Committee, because they...we do handle extremely important pieces of legislation. So at this point I'm not willing to support Senator Chambers' amendment, and I'm also not going to support most of what the Rules Committee has brought to us. Thank you.