

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

January 10, 2000

of the agricultural interests in any way that I can see. So, I hope that when you look at this from an institutional point of view, from the point of view of the Legislature as an institution, shouldn't we operate as efficiently and as equitably as we can with regard to all of the workload coming in? Isn't that what we owe to the people of Nebraska? Isn't that institutional efficiency...isn't that the...aren't those the right reasons, the right way to look at something? It shouldn't be who's interested in what chairmanship internally; it shouldn't be which individuals are interested in getting on which committees internally; it shouldn't be having two committees so that we have individually more credentials that are satisfying to our constituency, or some other reason like that.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Those aren't the right reasons. And I think if we look at it from the point of view of the right reasons, Ag is not demeaned, it is enhanced, because it will continue to hold firmly those areas of jurisdiction that it now holds rather than risk those being shuffled off by the Exec Board someplace else. And overall, we will function much better, we will function much better. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. First of all, I want to reemphasize what many others have said, and that is that this entire rules proposal did not come as an idea, or did not have its origin in the Rules Committee. It came about as a result of the body expecting the Rules Committee to come up with a reasonable proposal to restructure the workload so that we could do a better job, overall, in processing bills through this Legislature. It absolutely would not have been brought by the Rules Committee had there not been a strong request and a strong feeling expressed by members that they wanted us to do something. Secondly, some weeks ago, the Chairperson of the Rules Committee did instruct the Rules Committee members to do an informal survey of members about whether they wanted to proceed with this sort of idea. And the response, as I understand it, was pretty overwhelmingly yes, that they wanted