

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

January 10, 2000

the Rules Committee to do that. So I just want to be sure that that is a matter of record. There are some things about those that argue against this proposal that I...that I have sympathy with. I don't want to lose the expertise of the members of the Agriculture Committee on the issues that they've been involved in, and I don't want to lose the expertise of those members of Natural Resources that have been there as well. But I think...I think it doesn't have to do that. And I don't think this has anything to do with agriculture being number one, with due respect to my colleague and neighbor, Senator Janssen. Agriculture is the number one industry in the state, it will be. And I think by combining these two committees, I really think the stature, the numbers of committee members will be increased, the workload of those members involved with the Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources Committee will be increased over what it would be if they were just members of the Agriculture Committee. Those members of the Ag Committee that continue on this expanded committee will have a voice in more issues dealing with agriculture than they would have if they stayed on a committee that receives a smaller number of bills per year. Now the smaller number of bills does not diminish the importance of those bills; they've had some extremely important bills. But I don't think the ability to handle those bills will be lessened or diminished by those bills being handled by a committee that has the name Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources. Those issues are...are very interrelated. Now, one of the reasons we don't get more bills to the Ag Committee is that agriculture is such an interrelated industry, when you bring a bill dealing with agriculture it very well might have another subject matter involved with it. Reference was made to the ethanol legislation, very crucial to agriculture. And we've got a bill sitting there now that would require ethanol fuel to be used and sold in this state as a mandate, very much affects agriculture. Does that bill go to the Agriculture Committee? No, it goes to the Natural Resources Committee. And it has some environmental aspects, but certainly tremendous...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...impact on agriculture. Agriculture is so interrelated with other industries in our state that you cannot...you cannot find very many pieces of legislation that