

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

January 13, 2003

comfortable? The rural senators have been losing population in this state for near on 70 years, 7 decades in a row. Depending on how you count the representatives of the smaller towns, the Kearneys, the Scottsbluffs, the Grand Islands, whether you count them rural or urban, if you count those little towns as urban, then the rural representation in here is not enough to prevent a cloture vote. And the situation will get worse if trends continue. So you have to think about where the rural constituency's best interest is. You have to think about where all kinds of different kinds of minorities...do they all need protection to a certain extent?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I think what we have here in Nebraska is a good system. We changed the cloture rule last year. And I want to talk about that a little bit if I get some more time, so the new senators know that we've already made changes to the cloture rule and we need to talk a little bit about what we've done so far. But I hope you'll give real serious consideration in thinking about any change as far as the number of votes are concerned. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bromm on the motion to suspend the rules, followed by Senators Brashear, Landis, Brown, Schimek, Bourne, Smith, and Beutler. Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. And I rise in opposition to the motion, with all due respect, to adopt this amendment. In the way of background, I don't know how many senators have been on the Rules Committee as long as I have, but I have been on the Rules Committee, for some reason or other, for the entire ten years that I've been in the Legislature. I'm on there now as...in an ex-officio capacity as Speaker, but I served on that committee as a voting member for ten years. I think Senator Beutler, Senator Chambers, and Senator Landis, and others, and some of my colleagues who have been around that time would admit and agree that there have been some...several rules proposals that we have made through the years. Some have not been adopted, and some have. And some have been adopted for a