

JANUARY 5, 2001

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January 5, 2001

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Good morning. Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber for the third day. Our Chaplain today is Father Daniel Seiker from Senator Byars' District. Father.

FATHER SEIKER: (Prayer offered.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Father Seiker. Members, if you will please check in? Please record.

CLERK: I have a quorum present, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Doctor of the day introduced.) Mr. Clerk, are there any corrections to the Journal?

CLERK: I have no corrections, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I move that the rules as now in our possession be adopted for today only, Friday, January 5, 2001.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Is there discussion? Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. Motion carries. Mr. Clerk, are there any messages, reports, or announcements?

CLERK: Mr. President, there are. Thank you. I have a selection of the Vice Chair of the Education Committee has been made. Senator Suttle has been selected as Vice Chair. General Affairs has selected Senator Quandahl to serve as its Vice Chair. Mr. President, there will be a meeting of the Agriculture Committee at 10:30 underneath the north balcony. That's all that I have at this time, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Members, we'll proceed with bill introduction.

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January 5, 2001 LB 224-234

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 224-234 by title for the first time. Legislative Journal pages 120-121.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Pedersen, I would recognize you for a motion on the report from the Committee on Committees.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move to approve the Committee on Committees Report found on page 76 of the Journal. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. For discussion on the motion to adopt the Committee on Committees Report, Senator Quandahl.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I'm standing up today, and it might be a somewhat unusual request, but I'm going to rise and I'm going to encourage the members of the body not to vote to adopt the report on the Committee on Committees. Simply going to ask you not to vote "no"; just don't vote "yes" or abstain from voting. And the reason why I do this, I'm going to probably do a little bit of education here, but one of the things that I'm going to ask you to do is look at your Rule Book. We just adopted temporary rules just a few seconds ago and those were the same rules that were in effect at the end of the last legislative session. So, if you would, get out your Rule Book, turn to Rule 3, subsection (sic--Section) 2(b), which is found on page 13 and 14, and I will give you a little bit of time to get there, I'm going to read you the pertinent part of that particular rule that I think applies and which provides some support for my reasoning to abstain from voting on advancing this report. On page 14, the second part of that says, "Once the final report is presented to the Legislature," which just happened, "no amendments shall be considered. If the Legislature, by the majority of the elected members, fails to adopt the final report of the Committee on Committees, such report shall be returned to the committee for further action." And that I believe, senators, is what needs to be done with this report of the Committee on Committees. It simply needs to be

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returned to the committee for further action. Now I guess the next thing I'd ask you to do is look at the report itself and one of the questions that I'd have for you is, what's the hurry? We're on the third day of a ninety-day legislative session and so I think it's important that we give this due consideration, due deliberation, before we rush into something that may not provide a firm foundation for the rest of this particular legislative session. You all know and you've read the papers and we've discussed among ourselves the various weighty issues that we're going to be discussing during this legislative session and so I think it's important that if you have any questions about how we start this session off, this is going to be one of the first important votes that we take this session; that we step back, that we take time to consider what we're doing here so that we do provide a firm foundation for the rest of the legislative session. It's a matter of perception. We have to ensure that every senator is convinced that this report and that the committee selection process was fair to all senators and fair and in the best interests of all Nebraska, and I guess I would urge you that if you're not convinced that this committee report, it was fair to everyone and was in the best interests of Nebraska, again, I'm not asking you to vote "no", I'm simply asking you not to vote on the advancement of this committee report. You can sit on your hands, you can go get a cup of coffee. You don't have to vote "no", just don't vote "yes". I have a few questions that you might ask yourself: Were all senators consulted or considered in the committee selection process? Was there a set protocol? Was there a set of rules that was used for the committee selection process? Were the selections made with the best interests of Nebraska at heart? Now if you have questions, if you have even a scintilla of doubt in your mind, if you can't answer "yes" to all of those questions, I'd urge you not to vote to advance this committee report. Guess that's really all I have to say, is that I'm not urging you to vote "no" on the committee report. I'm not casting aspersions upon any particular committee, any particular caucus. I'm just asking that if you have any doubt in your mind just simply do not vote on the advancement of this report. Thank you very much for your time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Quandahl. Further

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discussion on the adoption of the Committee on Committees Report, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Quandahl a question or two.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Quandahl, would you respond?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I'll respond if I'm able, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Quandahl, did anybody...which "carcass" are you a member of?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I'm a (laugh) a member of the Omaha or the Second District Caucus.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Has anybody from "Carcass" One or Three come to you to object to what their "carcass" did?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Specifically? No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So your concern is about what District Two "Carcass" did. Is that true?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes, I guess I do have some concerns. Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't want you to guess. You're a lawyer. I want you to be sure. Is it...

SENATOR QUANDAHL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now, does your concern apply to you specifically?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're not unhappy with the way you were treated by the "carcass", is that true?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I didn't...I guess I didn't say that. What I would say is that I'd be happy to serve on any committees that

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the Committee on Committees selects for me, but I do think that sometimes there would be other selections that would better suit the needs of Nebraska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you standing as an advocate for a different member of the District Two "Carcass" who requested that you take this advocacy position?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So I'm to believe that on a theoretical point, without anybody bringing to you an objection and you yourself not having an objection, you're asking the Legislature to disavow, and despite the fact that you said you don't want to cast aspersions, you're asking the Legislature to disavow the work that the Committee on Committees has done, suggest by a refusal to vote that we as a body object, when the one making the motion has no objection? That's all that...is that what you're asking, Senator Quandahl?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I...I didn't understand the question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're asking the body to disavow the work of the Committee on Committees when no individual senator has an objection to what the Committee on Committees did. Is that what you're asking us to do?

SENATOR QUANDAHL: I guess the answer to that would be no, because I believe that there will be, I guess, more discussion on this, there certainly should be, and so I don't know if any particular senator does have an objection to it. All I'm...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator.

SENATOR QUANDAHL: ...if that...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: On my time. Thank you, Senator Quandahl. You answered as much as I need. Members of the Legislature, my moniker is "soccer ball". I get kicked around more than anybody else on the floor of the Legislature. Now, there are ways and means to deal with issues and when I stand on the floor to

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object it is an objection that I have. I make it crystal clear what the objection is, what it is I'm objecting to. But you have not heard me say or heard me attempt to do what Senator Quandahl is asking us to do here today--just on whim say that the way we've always done it in the past is rushing to judgment and doing something that is not in the interest of the state of Nebraska. Nobody in the state of Nebraska other than thus...those of us on this floor even know what we have done. Courts have ruled that unless there is overt discrimination of a kind prohibited by the constitution, the internal workings of a legislative body is for that body to deal with. The rules of the Legislature are to be adopted by the Legislature and that's in accord with the U.S. Constitution...well, with the Nebraska Constitution, and the U.S. Constitution says that Congress will adopt its rules. Senator Quandahl has not stood on the floor and alleged...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that there was sexism, racism, religious discrimination involved in what the committee did, so if he's simply unhappy, well, there are a lot of things that will happen this session that will make me very unhappy, but we are adults. We're not children playing in a sandbox. I think what Senator Quandahl has raised is a frivolous, nonsensical issue because he doesn't even have an objection. So he has had his opportunity to vent this morning, but if you all want to continue the discussion I will join in. Thank you, Mr. President, and (microphone malfunction) to what he is talking about.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion, Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Members, I rise to express my concern for the Third Caucus and that, as it ties into the First, the membership on the various committees. I'm not...haven't been here long enough to know exactly how we got where we are, but we have, obviously, different people on Exec Board Committee and Committee on Committees and I...the freshmen senators have asked me a lot of questions and I couldn't always answer them. I don't know how we got where we

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did on that. It's very confusing. I've talked to Senator Hudkins and, as we redistrict, I hope this...this is alleviated, this problem. I...I...she has assured me that it will be. I'd rise to make sure that it's of record that I don't condone this mixture of First and Third District people. It's confusing for everyone involved and I would hope that it would follow the congressional districts hereafter. As far as the Third District Caucus process, I know that it's to keep as many people happy and get them as, you know, where they want to be and that...that always isn't the case. There's no question about that. But I know that we need to address the process of how we select the assignments and just how did we get where we are on this. I feel that we, as a Third District Caucus, should have met and I strongly urge us to do a better job of communicating amongst ourselves to get together. With that, turn my time back to the Chair, and thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Baker. Further debate, Senator Bruning.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of Senator Quandahl's motion today to...or suggestion to vote against this Committee on Committees Report. Let's...let's put the facts here out in the open. Let's talk about them. We've kind of talked around it. In the Second District, Senator Quandahl, with two years experience, Senator Bromm, with six years experience, were passed up, both friends of mine, for my friend Senator Kruse, who's brand new. In my experience, and I've been through three reorganizations now, or three and a half if you consider the time when Senator Withem resigned and there was quite a shuffling at that point in 1998, I've never seen that happen. Never has a freshman passed up someone with more seniority for a seat on a committee. Never in my experience has a freshman bumped someone off a committee who actually had the seat. I've never seen it happen. This doesn't affect me personally, but it affects the way we interact with each other. This doesn't rise to the level of sexism or racism, I would agree with that, but this affects the collegiality of this body. Speaker Kristensen stood up on the first day and said this is important, I hope we can work together, I hope collegiality. I hope the good feelings that are here today

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continue on into the future. Well, they continued for about three hours until the Committee on Committees met and this took place. Now, how do we fix it? My suggestion is that all the caucuses adopt a similar rule and we actually put this in our rules to what the Third District does. The way committees are chosen is first based on incumbency. Once you have a seat on that committee you get to keep the seat on that committee if you want to stay there. Second, if there's an open seat on a committee, seniority rules. How do we decide offices? We don't get together and make a decision based on who we want in a certain spot. It's based on seniority. You've been here longer, you get the better office. Doesn't matter if you're Democrat, Republican, rural, urban. It's based on seniority. We do that because you don't want the politics, the collegiality, to breakdown. In this case, it's broken down. If you look around, if you talk to people, there is a lot of bad feeling today, there was a lot of bad feeling yesterday about the way the Committee on Committees did its work. And so I'm not going to argue with the people, but I am going to argue with the process. The people did what was legal. I'm not...there's no illegality here, but the process may be broken. We may want to think about changing the process so that people know what they're going to get in advance and we can avoid this happening in the future. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bruning. Senator Dierks, further discussion.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I just wanted to explain to you a little bit about the way we did it in the Third District Caucus. Senator Bruning mentioned that a little bit and so did Senator Baker. We did not meet as a caucus. Rather, I sent out a letter to each member of the caucus asking them to tell me their first, second, and third choices of committee. We then compiled that information and went through that to determine where we could put those people as...and we have...most of the problems we have, of course, is with the new people, because the people who have been here for awhile usually want to go back to their same...their same districts...or their same committees. But what Senator Bruning said is right, we do it by seniority and no

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sitting member of a committee gets boosted because someone with more seniority wants it. Once you're on the committee, you get to stay there if you want to. But a senior member of the committee can have precedent for a committee spot over a less senior member of the committee. When we received this information, we put it on a chart and we sent that chart to everybody in the caucus so everybody knows exactly what we were doing, what other people wanted to do, where the...where the demands were. I fail to see a need for us to call the group together because we don't vote on that issue. That's not something we vote on. That's something we do by seniority. We've done that as long as I've been here and we've gotten along very well with that, and I...I think it's worked well for the Third Caucus. I'm not sure that I agree with Senator Quandahl that we should vote "no". I think that the people here who have the responsibility for the caucuses have done their work. They haven't done anything illegal. I think we should go ahead and support the caucus report, the Committee on Committees Report, and get on with our business. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Further debate, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am the oldest member on the floor. I have seen more, based on experience, than, in the Legislature, than anybody in this Legislature. I have suffered more slings and arrows of an unkind and unjust fate, but you all know that I always spring back. I'm resilient. I have energy. I don't behave like what they call a senior citizen or an old man, because I don't whine and complain and gripe and hide behind others and get others to do dirty work for me. Senator Bruning said this doesn't involve him. He's speaking for his friends. Well, I didn't like the fact that Senator Quandahl donated a thousand dollars to somebody running against my friend, Senator Hartnett. But do you think that's going to make me treat him in a different way because of that? There are senators who ran against somebody else but they campaigned against me, and is that going to make me not work with them here? So what if somebody has been grumbling and mumbling around here? We're all adults. They'll get over it. I assure all of the new members, they'll get over

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it before the week is over. Before this day is over they're going to forget what they were grumbling about, and if they stay angry what difference does it make? Anger rests in the bosom of a fool. Now, are you going to follow a fool, or are you going to follow the path of wisdom? There are three "carcasses" because the state is divided up in different ways, and the Legislature is organized in different ways because there is no one size fits all in a state with the population distribution of Nebraska and the different types of interests that exist in this state. So, regardless of what the First "Carcass" does or the Third "Carcass" does, the Second "Carcass" is convened by moi. I call the "carcass". We come together. We vote for who is going to serve on the Committee on Committees. We vote for who's going to serve on the Exec Board. Senator Brashear was probably miffed at me because I spoke very strongly for Senator Suttle being on the Exec Board because I think women need to be more prominent in this Legislature in positions of leadership, and to take that position I had to vote against Senator Brashear, but I made it clear in the beginning. I don't throw rocks and hide my hand. We're in politics, brothers and sisters. We're not running a day-care center where you do what you do because somebody likes you. I was upset because Senator Redfield backed out of that committee struggle and I told her she'll get one vote anyway and I voted for her anyway. I believed in her more than she believed in herself. We need to become politically mature and understand what it is we're involved in and the work we're doing. I don't care if nobody likes me on this floor, although as charming and gracious as I am that's not going to be the case. But were it to be the case, do you think I'm going to crunch up in my seat or go down in my office and curl up in a fetal position and say, they don't like me, they won't give me what I want? Well, brothers and sisters, don't get mad; get even. Now, is Senator Bruning going to carry his pique, p-i-q-u-e, through the rest of the session and punish me for the position I'm taking this morning? I'd like him to attempt it. Is Senator Quandahl going to punish me? I would like him to attempt it. Everybody on this floor or many people on this floor know exactly what I'm talking about, but I'm the only one who will tell it like it is. There is a lot of mumbling and...

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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...grumbling that goes on in the corridors and behind the backs of hands, but it will not come out in the open. Senator Quandahl has no complaint, Senator Bruning has no complaint, but they're the ones up here doing the yapping. Excuse me. I shouldn't say that. They're the ones up here doing the talking. Well, if they don't have the complaint what a court would say is you have no standing. You have no interest in this and, as a result, whatever you file is to be dismissed as frivolous. So nobody with a complaint has stood up. Brothers and sisters, we ought to consign Senator Quandahl's motion to that repository where it so rightfully belongs.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further debate? Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I just want you to all know that there is not one committee in this Legislature that is more important than the other. They're all important. We all get different subject matter, but they're all very important. Ask your constituents. They'll ask you what...what committees you're on. You tell them. Oh, what do you do in that committee? So you start naming off what the priorities of those committees are. You have to remember that you elect your Committee on Committees representatives. You put your faith in them to do the right thing. I'm not saying what happened or the problems that are before us now aren't justified, they probably are, but that's not our system. I didn't get exactly what I wanted and I've been here eight years. I moved from the Ag Committee, which I thoroughly enjoyed, to the Urban Affairs Committee. Very important issues coming through the Urban Affairs Committee this year and I'm going to enjoy that. I've been there. I know what the subject matter is as well as Ag, but that...those are the things that happen and I think that's what makes this body as strong as it is, is the process we go through in...in our caucuses and establishing who gets what committees. I may not vote either way for this, I'm not sure, but I just want you to know that there is no committee, one committee, that's more important, in my opinion anyway, than another. Ask your constituents. They all have

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various ideas what should be done and, in one way or the other, each one of these committees in this Legislature is going to affect them. So I hope you can read where I'm coming from. If our process is wrong then let's change it, but I don't think it is. I think we've got a good process. So the next time you're voting on Committee on Committees members, question them a little bit about their ideas. That's all I have. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have to correct one statement that somebody made about getting the best office space based on seniority. I'd like to ask Senator Bromm a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm, would you yield?

SENATOR BROMM: Certainly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bromm, how long have you been in the Legislature?

SENATOR BROMM: Eight years.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And you're aware that I've been here thirty years.

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, I am.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Which of us is senior?

SENATOR BROMM: You are in both ways.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Does your office (laughter)...does your office abut mine?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, it does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Have I expressed from time to time a desire

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to get a little of your office space?

SENATOR BROMM: Yeah, you have.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Have you been willing to accede to that request?

SENATOR BROMM: I have not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you willing to accede to it now since you know that seniority has its privilege?

SENATOR BROMM: No, I'm not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Bromm, and I would not make such an unreasonable request. So not all things are granted based on seniority. Members of the Legislature, the internal workings of each "carcass" is that "carcass's" business. Now, if two senators in Omaha are upset, you're going to overturn all the work of the Committee on Committees for them? And, since we're playing hardball, what clout do they have down here? How many of you wait to see which way one of them is going to vote before you cast your vote and then you follow behind? In other words, there must be something that I cannot detect in all of this if this body, which is supposed to be composed of deliberative people, is going to, on the say-so of two junior members, overturn the work of people who were elected by the different "carcasses" to do the work that they did. I file complaints against judges, but you know why I don't file a complaint against a judge or what will not lead me to file a complaint against a judge? The mere fact that an opinion was written and a decision went in a direction that I disapproved of. If the judge, in the process of rendering that decision and writing that opinion, did not commit an ethical violation, I don't file the complaint. I might say the judge was a dunderhead. I might say that if they wore wigs in America as they do in England his wig doesn't fall off because he's got it nailed on his head. We can express our dissatisfaction, and I don't quibble with that. You have to let people vent, get it out of their system. When you keep all this stuff bottled up, you get stressed out. You might go crazy. One of them will

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come down here with one of these firearms and shoot everybody in the place or shoot as many of them as they can till they run out of ammunition. So we don't want people to bottle that stuff up. Vent. Get it out. But in the meantime, brothers and sisters, they are asking the Legislature, as a Legislature, to take an action which will cast a negative reflection on all of the members of the Committee on Committees and on them too, because they were at our "carcass" meeting. I believe they were. If they're part of the "carcass" they were probably there. So now they don't like who they voted for, so they say, the rest of you go along with me; although I don't have a complaint, I'm not dissatisfied, but I want you to show that Committee on Committees something by not accepting their report, which neither of them can show was put together in a way that violates any rule, any ethical principle or any law. They're just mad this morning.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I wish somebody had brought some Twinkies or some doughnuts to put people in a better mood around here, because that's the level at which we're operating this morning. I cannot even take this seriously. But as the oldest person here, sometimes it falls to me to do things, as I said in that rhyme about Senator Brashear--to give harsh advice. My advice is that we proceed to adopt the report of the Committee on Committees.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I want to make sure that you all understand what we're voting on and what is before us this morning. Obviously, this is the report on the Committee on Committees. This is not a bill. It is not going to have three rounds of debate. Most days, this receives a unanimous consent vote and it passes quickly. The reason it's here, it provides people the opportunity to comment on it. That's been done. I trust that this doesn't set the tone for the rest of the session. There's a lot more important things in this session, more important

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things to your constituents than to you that we're going to have to do this session. And some of the people who may not have spoken this morning may take this morning's discussion to heart that maybe there's a better way to do some things, not in what the result was but in how it was carried out. You can vote "no" this morning. You can not vote at all. What will happen? The report will go back to the committee. The same committee will meet again, the same things will occur and we will be back here on Monday morning. Is something going to change between now and Monday morning? No, it will not. Is there a message in what we can do? Yes. If you don't like the rules there's the opportunity to change them. You should follow the process and do so. Do you want the opportunity to stand up and say that I was treated unfairly? Yes. I've not heard that. I know there are people that may feel that way. There may be people who should stand up and say, this is the reason I did what I did when I did it. They're under no obligation to do that. Your obligation this morning is do we adopt this report or don't we? We have the choice. For my version, I'm going to adopt the report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. As a still relatively new member, I...I immediately asked some questions in the last couple days as to how things were arrived at, how decisions were arrived at, and I want to explain my decision to keep from abstaining, and I'm going to vote red because when I asked a question and got some information I feel that for whatever reason it was wrong and I, as a result, will vote red. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Smith. Senator Coordsen, further discussion.

SENATOR COORDSEN: There's always, I think, some amount of discomfort particularly among those who, for reasons that may not even be surmountable, don't get their wishes in the assignment of committee seats in the Legislature. But the thing I would like to caution you this morning when you look at...look

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ahead to wanting to make potential changes is to listen to what my junior, in chronological age, member of the Legislature, Senator Chambers, said, older in service, younger in years as it were, and that is I think there's a good reason that we maintain ultimate flexibility for each of the caucuses to decide for themselves, among themselves, how they wish to make those determinations of who, which person within their caucus, is...has the opportunity to be placed on which committee. I think you'll find yourself very sorry in the future if you attempt to create rules that would restrict freedom of decision by groups of individuals within this body. Historically, historically, the caucus representing, in general, the Second Congressional District has had a method of making those determinations that has worked for them. The First Congressional District has had a method of making those determinations that has worked for them. And the Third District, the Third Caucus, has still another variation on the same theme that has worked for them. When you try to choose from the three successful, generally successful at least, methods, variations within, I'm afraid you're going to find yourself with a system that is less able to adjust for the individual needs and interests of caucus members than what we have today. I still believe in this body and I believe in this body, as a group, wanting to do the best for each other as we work through the system and individuals within the smaller groups. I am not going to support a motion. I am going to support the decisions made by Committee on Committees, but there is an aftereffect to all of this and that's the reason I got up, to be very cautious to make changes in processes that have worked quite well. I, for an example, ended up my first year here on Business and Labor Committee. Holy mackerel! But it turned out to be one of the best learning experiences that I ever had because it exposed me to a world that I knew nothing about at that time and was able to go on and, because of not being in involvement, have impact in a nonbiased method in that field. Those opportunities lie there...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...ahead some place for all of us. So we're a little bit miffed today, but we may be more miffed at some

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time in the future if we try to make too many changes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Pedersen, you're recognized to close on the motion to adopt Committee on Committees Report.

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. With unanimous consent of the members of the Committee on Committees' members, the people elected by you voted to move this report on. I ask you now to please support this report and vote green. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. The motion before you is to adopt the Committee on Committees Report. Those in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Record vote has been requested. Mr. Clerk, please record.

CLERK: (Record vote read, Legislative Journal pages 121-122.) 30 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the report.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Committee on Committees Report is adopted. Mr. Clerk, items for the record. Mr. Clerk, new bills.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 235-255 by title for the first time. Legislative Journal pages 122-126.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Members, if you have bills to introduce, please bring them to the desk and we'll stand at ease for a few minutes.

EASE

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Microphone malfunction) ...culture Committee will meet under the north balcony; Ag Committee, under the north balcony. Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I realize that there's a number of bills being circulated around this morning and, for those of you in your office who are working on those bills, we're going to try to get

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the bills stopped being introduced this morning about 11:45. I know there's a Rules Committee meeting that's going to occur yet this morning. We want to get that...that meeting in. To remind you, we'll start at ten o'clock on Monday morning. Next week is a five-day week and rules debate will start on Tuesday morning. So hopefully the Rules Committee can meet today, get something put in the Journal so you can read it on Monday, and we'll begin that debate on Tuesday. So we'll...if you could try to get your bills up here this morning before 11:45, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 256-281 by title for the first time. Legislative Journal pages 126-130.) (Microphone malfunction)...underneath the north balcony right now; Rules Committee, north balcony, right now.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Microphone malfunction) ...to be introduced this morning, I would suggest you bring them to the desk. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, new bills. (Read LB 282-301 by title for the first time.) Mr. President, as we await the final bills, Senator Smith would like to...or, I'm sorry, Senator Schimek would announce that Senator Smith has been selected as Vice Chair of the Government Committee. Senator Dierks would like to announce that Senator Vrtiska has been selected as Vice Chair of the Agriculture Committee. (Legislative Journal pages 130-133.)

Mr. President, I have a series of proposed rules changes as offered by the Rules Committee. Those will be inserted in the Legislative Journal for legislative consideration next week. (Legislative Journal pages 136-139.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR COORDSEN: A point of personal privilege, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Coordsen.

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LR 3

SENATOR COORDSEN: For those who are on the Executive Board, we have found that there was a computer glitch in the printing of the bills for reference and, in many cases, the one-liners do not match with the bills, so we're going to cancel the referencing session of the Exec Board that was supposed to be held after adjournment. And the second item of personal privilege I would like to mention is that there will be a training session on the new laptops here on the floor and the programs contained therein and I would invite you all to join with me in learning something new yet today. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Microphone malfunction) What time?

SENATOR COORDSEN: On adjournment, right away, soon as we quit. I'm staying.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President, the last few bills. (Read LB 302-305 by title for the first time.) Mr. President, I have a new resolution, LR 3CA. Senator Wehrbein would offer LR 3CA. It would propose an amendment to Article VIII, Section 2, of the Constitution of Nebraska. Mr. President, a series of adds: Senator Thompson to LB 33; Cunningham to LB 28; Senator Cunningham to LB 65; Senator Hilgert, LB 80; Senator Kruse to LB 167. (Legislative Journal pages 133-136.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Cudaback, I'd recognize you for a motion to adjourn.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I make a motion to adjourn until Monday morning, January the 8th, at 10:00 a.m.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Those in favor say aye. Those opposed nay. Legislature is adjourned.

Proofed by: LaVera Benischek