

End to bill reading proposed

Lincoln Sen. Chris Beutler has introduced a proposal that would eliminate the requirement that all bills be read aloud before a final legislative vote. If passed, the proposal would be made an amendment to the state constitution.

Beutler said the proposal includes the stipulation that any senator could ask for a reading before the final vote on any bill. Currently, the clerk of the Legislature, Pat O'Donnell, or his assistant reads all bills aloud before the final vote. O'Donnell called the practice a mechanical function that consumes as much as 25 percent to 30 percent of legislative time.

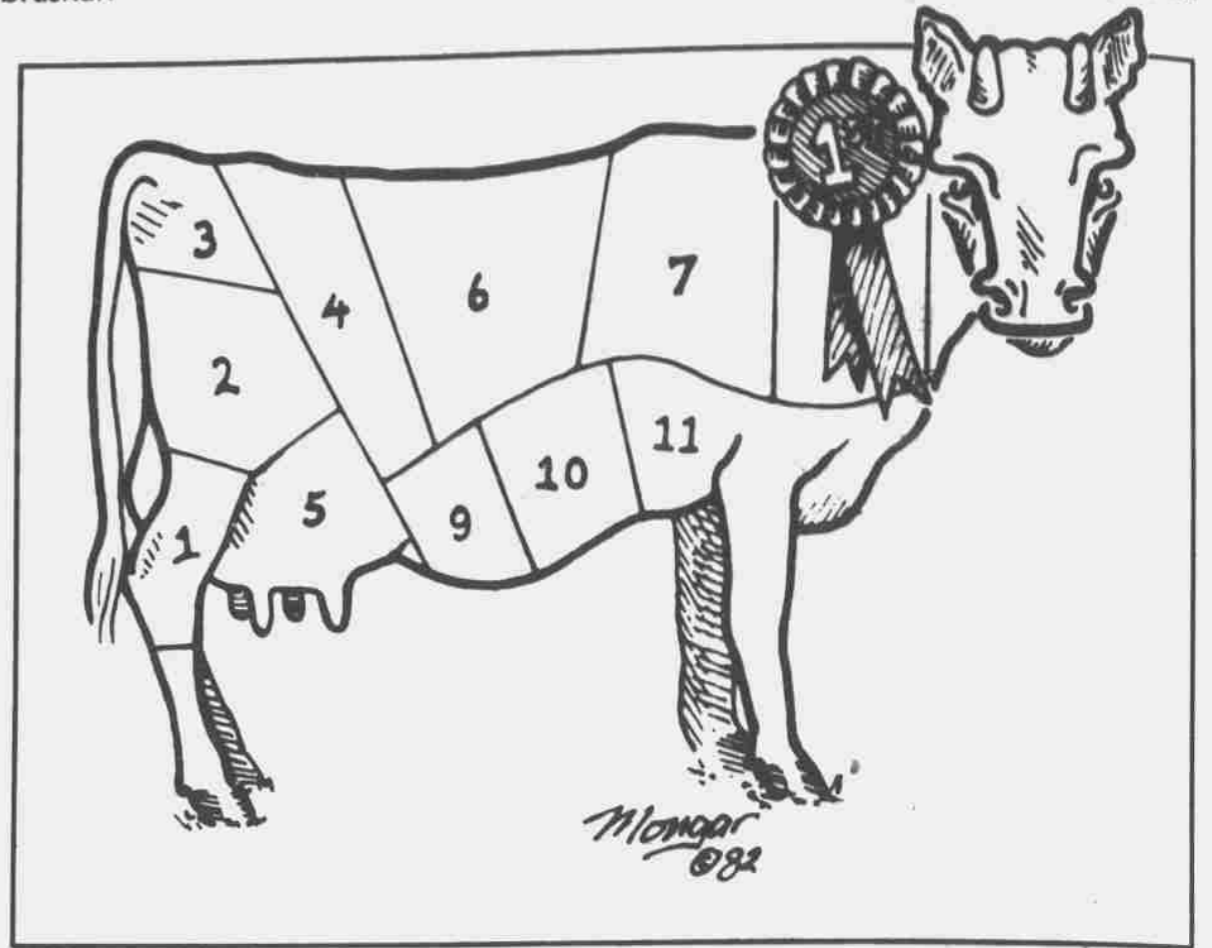
Beutler indicated the need for legislators to use their time wisely.

"It is not very wise to be sitting there while the clerk is reading the bills. That time should be better used," he said.

The final reading of the budget bill consumed between two and three hours, he said. Beutler said he thinks that the speaker should let all the legislators know a day ahead of time that a vote is coming, and everyone should read the bills on his or her own.

Amendments to a bill could be made in one of three stages of debate that precede the final vote, he said.

While two similar proposals since 1970 have failed, Beutler said his proposal is different in that any senator could still request a final reading.



Meat carcass judging team practices for prime ratings

By Wendy Harris

Prime, choice, good and standard — are terms used by UNL's meat carcass judging team. Fourteen members comprise the senior judging team according to Dwight Loveday, team coach.

Loveday said the judging contests give the team a chance to show its knowledge of meats. The members have greater insight to the meat industry and exchange ideas with other teams across the United States.

There are three different divisions in the judging contest, Loveday said.

The first division is beef grading — the yield and quality grade. The yield grade, Loveday said, is the amount of retail cuts from a carcass and is given in grades of 1, 2, 3 and 4. The members try to match the U.S. Department of Agriculture grade given on that carcass.

Four grades given

Members grade carcasses as prime, choice, good and standard. The members base their decisions on three factors — the amount of muscle, amount of fat and the quality of lean meat the carcass has. Loveday also said the members consider what the current economic standards of the country are when they make their decision.

The second division is meat cuts, Loveday said. Members judge beef, pork and lamb carcasses, fresh hams and beef wholesale cut classes, ranking these in order of quality.

The last division is the reasons class. Members write the reasons why they place carcasses in a particular category and defend their decision. Loveday believes members learn communication skills and the ability to make decisions under pressure in these contests.

A new division will be added in 1983. It's called specification cuts, Loveday said. Members will need to know wholesale cuts and then must cut them to specifications given. Loveday said these cuts usually are sold to hotels, and members must know how to prepare them.

Contests scheduled

This past weekend, the team traveled to Ames, Iowa, for the Iowa State Invitational where it competed against eight other teams, Loveday said. Also this fall, the team will judge at the American Royal Contest in Kansas and the International Contest in Dakota City. Loveday said meets in Houston and Fort Worth are planned for the spring.

Team members attend judging class on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings. American Stores Plant is the off-campus classroom but members visit other plants in the area and do a lot of work in the meat lab, Loveday said. Members practice every day. The repetition helps members establish baselines for their decisions, he said.

Loveday added that his members have a sense of self-discipline. The team must spend extra time practicing to be competitive.

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