

February 15, 1973

think this Legislature has seen what can happen. We saw it last year. We had cloture without cloture being a part of our rules but one thing I will guarantee you, there is no way in the world you can get me to accept this rule as it is written. Senator DeCamp says it will require thirty votes, but I'm just that kind of a coward, that I want to see it in writing in the rule. If we are to in fact, engage in debate on this floor, at what stage is cloture properly invoked? By the Committee chairman when he introduces the bill and thereby limits automatically to thirty minutes, any discussion, or does it become invoked after one hour of discussion? After two hours of discussion? I think this was a most unfortunate proposal. It is inadequate. It is incomplete and it places in the hands of a select few, a double bitted meat axe that ultimately destroys the legislative consideration process that we currently use here. This is a selfish tool that would enable this Legislature to accelerate the rate at which we are currently making mistakes. We have now limited the citizen from testifying. We will now limit the Legislature from discussion and we will place into the hands of one, two, three, four, the complete process within this Legislature and it would be the most unfortunate mistake that I can conceive of. If there is not to be, granted there may be thirty votes as we saw last year, there may be thirty predestined votes that could invoke cloture immediately and many of the very worthwhile considerations that others might have to offer would never come before this body that might alter that thirty vote consideration. I think this is probably a classic mistake. If we make it, I think we have arrived at a new pinnacle.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Motion on the desk, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Read the motion.

CLERK: The motion is to amend the proposed rule change found on page 689 of the Journal. (Read Newell amendment found on page 717 of the Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm offering an amendment that I offered in Committee and I think at this point, I think it is an acceptable, reasonable sort of solution to or a compromise to this problem. It would allow for cloture. It would allow for cloture only after a vote, a nondebatable vote, which requires thirty votes. Now this provides a safeguard for the Legislature and at the same time would prevent minorities such as myself last year in the 518 battle, from effectively delaying legislation. This proposal, I think, is a decent compromise. I talked to the Chairman. I'm going to ask him in a minute, I talked to him and I think that he is willing to accept this. I would hope the rest of the body would look at this seriously. It does provide for cloture but only after a majority of thirty members choose to enact it. I think this would provide a safeguard. We can move legislation that will be moved along anyhow that is acceptable, etc. So I am offering this proposal. There is a need in my opinion, to try to make this process work more swiftly but as I stood up before, the process of being swift sometimes is incomplete. It is wrong. It is erroneous. The original proposal would have destroyed, in fact, that process and I think this amendment would make it whole. Thank you. Senator DeCamp, excuse me, would you accept this as an amendment?

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