

in that case legitimately used because we had gone through an extended period and because there was no other way in our rules to stop debate. That was a true filibuster situation but when you start crossing over the line of a true filibuster situation, then I think we are doing a bad thing in this Legislature. Then free speech in a very real sense is being curtailed and I hope you will reject this amendment. Let's finish the debate, stick around for a little bit over the lunch hour if it takes it, finish the debate in a legitimate manner and vote on the subject. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I think Senator Johnson and Senator Beutler covered most of the issues that have to be dealt with on this matter and I simply want to say that I am opposed to suspending the rules for this purpose too. I had a speed limit bill which probably had more amendments than any bill we have considered so far this session and not once did I suggest that the debate ought to end on any amendment, not once did I try to suspend the rules so that amendments could not be offered and although I have been an advocate of increasing the speed limit, I would never say that it reaches the level of importance as the subject that is being discussed here this morning. So I hope you will consider what is entailed here and not just let your stomach rule your mind. There is a proverb that says, when the stomach is full, the head is empty, so maybe we will take the corollary and say, when the stomach is empty, perhaps the senses that reside in the head are a bit sharper and a bit more attuned to what is being presented to our minds. So I hope you will vote against this motion to suspend the rules.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would echo the sentiments of previous speakers. There is only one motion up on the desk after this and that is a motion to indefinitely postpone, so essentially there is no lengthy list of amendments. There is no filibuster. All that is before us is to debate the bill itself which interestingly enough, we have yet to do. Now if we had suspended the rules earlier we would not have had the opportunity of Senator Johnson's speech which I think sheds light on another aspect of this issue and I think was an important contribution to the debate. If we suspend the rules now what we are saying is, it does not matter whether you conduct yourself in a responsible manner on an issue or whether you conduct yourself in an irresponsible manner with regards to floor procedure. If we want to push something through we will push it through whether or not all aspects have been discussed.