

April 1, 1981

LB 40

I like Speaker Marvel, but I am not going to go for something that I think is unfair and improper because I like Speaker Marvel. I am concerned about how the system is functioning. And I say again, you can look at Senator DeCamp's name how many times it comes up, and that by itself would raise a question in the minds of the public. It certainly has raised one in my mind. And the way LB 40 is being handled now, the question that is in my mind has not been answered sufficiently by the Speaker or anybody else. And what I am going to do if the Speaker won't change his mind is make a motion to overrule the Chair so that we can get some kind of system, order and fairness. And remember, members of the Legislature, I have no priority bill that I am bucking for. I have none on the list anywhere.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you make that as a motion, Senator Chambers? The correct motion I think is that the Speaker's agenda be overruled, and that takes 30 votes. Okay. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the motion to overrule the Chair, and I do this without commenting on the bill. I think... well, maybe I will comment on the bill. We are talking about LB 40 which I am opposed to, but I really believe you cannot let filibustering kill a bill in this body or else this body is down the drain. Our procedures are no longer valid. Anyone of us can do that. So yesterday LB 40 was on the agenda. It was discussed. Time ran out. So there is no, in my estimation, the Speaker is correct, because there is no other way we can operate except to come back to that same bill today. Because if we let filibustering kill the bill, we can all do that, and we will never...we can stop any bill from being passed. This body has no way to limit debate except by pressure from each of us on each other. We don't have a cloture in this body, in our rules, an effective rule. So if any of these bills are killed or taken off the agenda just because we continue to put up amendments and argue about it, this body is going to come to a complete standstill. Now Senator Vickers addresses a valid point in that some of the other bills on the agenda have a time limit. I am opposed to that. I have always been opposed to that, unless there is a provision on there which says you can at the end of that time vote it either up or down, because you can do the same thing that happened to LB 40 yesterday. You can argue the thing to death. You can filibuster and it is not an effective way to resolve the issue. So although I oppose LB 40, I support bringing it back and