

May 20, 1981

session. At the beginning of the session, I always mention it, but when you new people come down here, you are warned against me. You are told what a terrible person I am, vote against everything I bring up, don't listen to me because I will corrupt you, then as the session wears on, some of you come over and tell me that you were misled. Every session at the beginning I mention that when we get to the last few days, that's the shakeout part of the cruise. Deals are going to start breaking down. The coalitions that were fragile in the first place are going to crumble and disintegrate. So instead of us dealing realistically with what the legislative process is, we think that all we have to do is say, suspend the rule for the rest of the session. Now what is that going to show a destructive person like me? I am being told all the time this is a society of laws and rules, not of men, meaning arbitrariness. So then I come to this Legislature expecting to see rules observed and then the legislators themselves will say, let's suspend the rules for the convenience of somebody or in order to get something done. And by the way, my comments aren't addressed to the Speaker as an individual. He is trying to facilitate the movement of legislation. But, frankly, I think there is too much emphasis given to facilitating the movement of legislation so that the numbers appear at the end of the session. There will be some good bills. There will be some bad bills no matter how we conduct the session. Consent file lets all kind of things slide through. If we don't want to get to this crunch at the end, let the committees kill more bills. Let more of them be killed on General File. Don't hasten to take things off General File to Select File. Don't say, we will move it from Select to Final Reading because we can always bring it back. What has happened, and I have mentioned it before, is that we have three stages of debate instead of two. When I first came down here there was one, really, General File. On Select File there were technical amendments made, and in some instances you would have to take a bill back to General File to amend it. It made people far more careful about how they looked at a bill all the way through. But to direct my attention specifically to the offered amendment, and I am not just talking about Senator Beutler's, but the entire proposition. I think it has no merit at this time and I think it ought not to be adopted. What you, in effect, will be doing even if it is out of respect for the Speaker is allowing him because of his prestige to amend the rules without really amending them. We should not make the mistake on this issue as we do every year for Senator Warner when we say, no A bills will be passed until the budget bill has been passed. We should learn from those kind of motions. This is a similar