

May 22, 1981

LB 472A

SENATOR CLARK: I will. Mr. Clerk, will you repeat it please. Repeat the substitute motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, the substitute motion would read as follows: (Read.)

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand, I am operating now as a debater on the issue of the substitute motion and I am in order and there has been no closing on the substitute motion.

SENATOR CLARK: That is right.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, Mr. President, I rise to oppose the substitute amendment to suspend the rules and I want to talk just for a moment on something other than constitutional grounds. The Legislature is to be a deliberative body. It is to write policy. It is to write that policy in the scrutiny of the public with a chance for public reaction. We are to translate the public will into law, and we are to do that not only the view of the public but also to adhere to a process that is open for their reaction and their testimony and the gathering of facts and information and opinions from the public. The language which is being offered to LB 472 was offered to this body today. It is the first time we have seen it. This is not the same language we talked about yesterday and the day before. This is new language. If it is adopted today, it is quite likely it will go to E & R, and over a long weekend, it could be back here and voted on Tuesday morning on Final Reading. And so on Friday afternoon at 3:52 we could adopt an amendment which would then be voted on the first thing Tuesday morning and that is the deliberative process that we are being asked to pass on with this motion. I object to that. Now I don't object to it in a constitutional way. I don't object to it on the basis of some specific rule that justifies my stand. I object to it on the basis that it is not good policy to act this way. We don't look good and I am glad Cable TV is here today and ETV is watching us because I don't think when we collapsed the two House system into one House and we created a three step process of General File, Select File and Final Reading to replace the slow deliberative process of a House of Representatives and a Senate that we do justice to George Norris or the founders of the Unicameral when we take in one afternoon language, put it in a bill, and the next day vote on it and turn it into law. That is not deliberative lawmaking. That is not wise public policy