

January 6, 1982

Legislature at the beginning of each session we make our rules and by virtue of all of us being here we have notice of our rules and I am saying that we need to follow through and in fairness to all, abide by the rules that we set for ourselves. It doesn't make sense and we would never ask the public, the public doesn't have that kind of latitude. We make laws for the public. They have to obey them. They can't suspend the law and yet in our own body we make our laws and then we suspend our laws when they don't suit us or when they don't suit a majority. The suspension of the rules is just a statement of due process. It is just a statement that says in fairness to everyone, once you have made your rules, then abide by them and that is all that is being asked of you today. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to support the rule change and endorse what Senator Beutler has just said but as long as I have been here the rules have always been the vehicle by which we protected the minority's viewpoint to be expressed and yet facilitate the majority's viewpoint perhaps be accomplished. And the most important reason, in fact, I have sat through debates where the proposal was for 40 votes to suspend the rules back ten or twelve years ago. But the most important thing of the rules for each of you individually that you can rely on them, that they are consistent, that you know what the procedure is going to be. You walk here every morning not knowing which rule you are playing the game by that day, then you've got total chaos in the legislative process. Rules are designed to facilitate. They ought to be used and they should not be easily discarded. I would hope you would support the rule.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I was going to call for the question but after Senator Warner spoke in favor of the rule, I am going to speak against it. I feel that it is working the way it is now, that we are trying to turn this into some sort of a court of law where you have a rule for this and a rule for that and pretty soon we are going to be so bogged down with rules we are going to have a committee, a committee on rules, to explain to the committee on rules what we rules we are and aren't following. So I feel that this body is operating pretty good the way it is and let's just go right ahead and vote no on this and the rest of them and get down to business. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.