

January 6, 1982

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, maybe my good friend Senator Beutler and Senator Warner forgot one little thing and that is simply this. That it is a rule, a rule, as to an alternate procedure when you are bogged down or stopped or have to do something different. That is a rule and it sets up a standard of 30 votes which is a very super majority. Now Senator Warner, as I recall, and I would submit that he would verify this himself, suspended the rules last session and the session before more than any other member of this body. I would guarantee if you checked the record it would show up that way. So.....now admittedly he suspended the rules as an orderly process to make the Legislature function and we did it pretty much perfunctorily but the point it is, it was a rule, a procedure, a method and manner of processing business and expediting things and I think we shouldn't get it subject to such ridiculous limits that we're always having Calls of the House and roll call votes because somebody happens to be in the bathroom or in their office or something on a really tough suspension of the rules when a supermajority of the body, for example, decides look, we want to cut off debate or we want to do this, I think thirty, three-fifths is certainly an abundant number. As I say, I would guess I can live with anything that you come up with but I'm not sure that it won't cause the whole process to slow down rather than speed up if you start doing these kind of things.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I don't think we should be afraid, so afraid of our own rules. We can make changes to the rules. We can make changes that improve the process and give us all a fair shot at our own bills, in opposing other bills, a fair piece of the action in the whole legislative process. Last year we tried the priority bill system. That seemed to work out pretty good. That seemed to make a very positive change. It also gave everybody a chance at a fair shot at their own bill and what was most important to them without relying on the Speaker, without relying on one of the Kingpins to make a big deal at the end of the session that happened to include their bill. It provided an orderly process where everybody in here had the opportunity to do their thing. But if you continue to allow it to be easy to suspend the rules then we will go on in this short session, I predict it will happen again especially this short session, that we'll get to the end of the session and then we will have the big deal and the rules will be suspended and you will get a beautiful piece of legislation like 472A. That was a real fine example and you'll be sorry. You have got to cut down on the ability of the members of this