

October 30, 1981

CLERK: (Read record vote as found on pages 12-13 of the Legislative Journal.) 36 ayes, 11 nays and 2 not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries and the fourth amendment to the rules is adopted. We are now in a position to... are there any further amendments on the desk?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion is offered by Senator Beutler. (Read Beutler amendment as found on page 13 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this rule change is the one that I alluded to earlier which would basically, simply say that in order to suspend the rules it would require instead of the traditional three-fifths vote that we previously required, a two-thirds majority of the members elected. Let me make clear for the new members first of all, that we are talking about a suspension of the rules as opposed to the initial adoption of the rules which requires only twenty-five votes or as opposed to the amendment of the rules which requires twenty-five votes. What we are talking about is somebody standing up on the floor of the Legislature because they don't like this or that procedure and proposing to suspend the rule for purposes of facilitating with every purpose they have in mind at that particular point in time. The other day at my house, and we have some rules at my house, one of them has to do with cookies and how many you can have at one time. It is two in my house, but as you all are aware from time to time we have these unholy cravings and sure enough I stuck my hand in the cookie jar for a third cookie the other night and my little girl Erica caught me and of course in words that weren't quite as sophisticated as you or I would use, she accused me of hypocrisy. And that story really has a lot of applicability to what we do in this Legislature and the way the public views us. We make our rules and then we come along and on some important issue we don't abide by our own rules. We are, in fact, hypocrites. We make rules for the public. We make rules and regulations for the school people and for businessmen and for everybody in this public in Nebraska and we expect them to abide by them and if there happens to be one or more that they don't like they really don't have the option, do they, on suspending the rule? And it is hard for them to understand and it is hard for me to understand why we in this Legislature feel that we have the right or the need for that matter, just come along and suspend our own rules when they don't please