

January 9, 1989

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Moore a question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Moore, your amendment would say what?

SENATOR MOORE: This amendment we're debating now?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Simply adds the word "principal" behind introducer so only the principal introducer can make the motion to invoke the cloture rule.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Which means that no matter how much the rest of the body may want cloture, if the principal introducer happens not to be here that day, there cannot be a motion for cloture even made. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So here is a built in deficiency in the rule. Either you should have cloture available whenever the body wants to invoke it or you don't have it. So what you're going to do again...and I'm honored by this attention that I get the first of every legislative session. You are going to get a box-ankle, crooked-legged rule that may or may not work. You just have to hope that you're going to time the invocation of cloture to a day when Ernie Chambers is speaking in a way that the body objects and when the principal introducer of the bill happens to be here. If there are several introducers and a bill comes up for debate, it will be debated when it comes up. It's not as though there were one introducer and the bill be taken up in that introducer's absence, that generally does not happen. I am enjoying this already. I am watching what legislative deliberation produces in the form of a rule. I think it's ridiculous and I say it to challenge you, to irritate you, to make you indignant. And I tell you, do your best but so far it seems you're doing your worst. The rule is not good. It makes me no difference, but I'm going to offer an amendment to it to put my name in it somewhere so that there will be truth in labeling. The only reason these kind of bad rules are brought