

January 9, 1989

SENATOR HABERMAN: I want everybody to be sure to understand what you're doing that you will not be allowed to offer any amendments in any method to even your own bill or a committee bill. What Senator Chambers is trying to do this morning, in my opinion, is to point out to this body that this is a dangerous rule change and he's going picky, picky at it to try to get somebody's attention to show the bad parts of the rule and also to show, after he's had his turn on trying to change the rules, that it isn't going to make any difference anyway. So I just wanted to be sure that the members of this body understood what's going to happen and that his amendment that he has now will help a little bit. So be careful and listen to what's being said on this rule change. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. President and members, I would like to rise and explain, for those of you that are following debate, just to make it very clear that this is far from a friendly amendment to this rule. This, basically, would strike the whole cloture rule because, unless you make the cloture rule a priority motion, you have rendered it useless. Now the only way you can filibuster in this Chamber, the only way you can hold this Chamber, bring this Chamber to its knees for a matter of hours and days is to file in succession a number of motions. Now in the past when Senator Chambers...Senator Newell used to also be one of these to file a lot of motions. Senator Wesely has used this to make sure it's fair. I'm not accusing just you of doing this, you are absolutely right, others have done this. But the way you do it is to file 25 amendments, while if you do not make the cloture rule a priority motion, then there is no reason to have one because the person holding the Legislature hostage would run through all of his amendments and then if the cloture rule would get its...the cloture motion would get its turn at the end. Well, at that time, you wouldn't need it because the debate would be over, theoretically. So the only way you can actually have a good cloture rule is if you have it have priority and if you would adopt Senator Chambers' amendment here, you might as well kill it because it's not going to do anything, because, otherwise, you're going to have to wait until after amendments...frivolous amendments, you're going to have to wait until all of those have gone through. The only way you can have an effective rule is if you give it priority status and I just want to make clear to people that this amendment offered by Senator Chambers would, in essence, strip the rule of any sense