

January 9, 1989

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President, members, I'd like to yield to Senator Scott for closing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore, excuse me.

SENATOR LYNCH: Senator Scott Moore for closing.

SPEAKER BARRETT: I don't believe we're closing, Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, I thought that is what you called me for, Mr. Chairman. Aren't we finished yet? I apologize to you and the body. You called my name, I immediately rose in honor and respect to do whatever I could for whatever you wanted me to do. But there is no more debate.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, your light is on.

SENATOR WESELY: Very briefly, Mr. Speaker, members, I would rise in opposition to this rule change. I do understand where Senator Moore and Senator Lynch are coming from, but I do recall the filibusters in the past and Senator Chambers isn't the only one that has used that vehicle to raise issues. Some of us, including myself, have also in a very small way tried to utilize it to make points that are very much in a minority on this floor, and I think as an open discussion center for this state, the place where in the public view we can discuss ideas and policy options, I don't see why we can't, on very rare occasion, take an extraordinary amount of time to debate some particularly important issue that maybe only one senator amongst us feels deserves attention. Now, I'm thinking specifically about Senator Marge Higgins who sat right behind me over here and went through quite a long filibuster toward the end of last session and held up and stopped a number of pieces of legislation, some of which I was very much interested in that day, but nevertheless, I sat through the lunch hour and I sat through the whole thing and some of us did, I know. Senator Lynch and I think a few others did and tried to at least recognize the role that she was playing and we weren't happy about it, none of us were, but I still think you've got to understand the deliberative nature of this body. It is the one place we can openly discuss among the people of this state what our policy choices are and sometimes it takes more time than we'd like. Sometimes one person takes more time than we like, but I think it is part of a long tradition. We've never had a cloture rule