

January 9, 1989

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion on the motion? Seeing none, Senator Lynch, would you care to close at this time?

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, now I'd like to call on Senator Scott Moore to close on this bill.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, in lieu of requesting a call of the house now, I assume the members of the body that are in earshot of my voice would begin to come back and I won't make you listen to what I have to say but I hope you are listening, I think it's important. We've had a number of speakers other than Senator Chambers get up here this morning and this afternoon and speak out against the cloture rule and every one of those members, if some had the time and tenure in the Legislature, has voted for one. In 1982 both Senator Warner and Senator Wesely voted for what was then Senator Beutler's cloture rule. It was indeed tighter than the one we're talking about here today, but that one would have only allowed five hours of debate. In 1981 during the special session when the reason you need a cloture rule was very imminent, my good friend and seat mate, Senator Schmit, at that time was one of the 40 votes that voted for a cloture rule. But the thing about it is here today, we're sitting here saying, like Senator Warner said, we are the enemy, those of us ourselves are, but we're sitting here today saying, we'll never need it, it will never happen this session that we'll need a cloture rule. And I don't know whether it will or won't, but I think we're better off dealing with this issue up front at the beginning of the session than instead of waiting till the pain occurs, until the dentists start drilling and whoever that may be and after the fact, trying to invoke some sort of cloture rule. Now some people have said, if you really want to shut off the debate, the rule that we're talking about today doesn't have the teeth. Now one way, you know if you really wanted to have a cloture rule, we should make the rule...have a rule suspension to substitute an amendment, make that a priority motion. That way you could invoke a cloture rule at any time. That's kind of what we do here anyway. Well, I don't think that's fair because then there may be the motion down there that we need to debate, I think we need to get to. Another way to limit a member's ability to filibuster would be to limit the number of amendments a person can offer, limit it to five. I think that there may be some members may have more than five good ideas and I don't think you should limit...put