

years that I have been involved here in the Legislature. I remember two years ago we did discuss this very issue of when a call of the house would be in order. I can't, off the top of my head, remember what exactly that proposed rule was, or if I remember correctly, the rule was putting in the rules exactly how the Speaker has ruled here, but we did not adopt the rule at that time. Now there was some discussion on whether the call of the house would only be in order for a vote, or only be in order for a closing, or when exactly it would be in order. We did not adopt any rule at that time. There is no rule there in place that says when a call is or is not in order, and because of that, given the fact that in the past we have always allowed people to have a call of the house when they so choose, I think now is, unfortunately, though I hesitate to disagree with Senator Barrett and Senator Warner, I think we should overrule the Chair. If you are really against Senator McFarland's call of the house, then vote against it, but to be consistent, I think we should overrule the Chair on this issue.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, in law school, they say, go to the books, go to the books. Well, turn in your rule book to page 51 because that is where it is. It is Rule 7, Section 5, simple matter. A call of the house may be made by any member of the...any member, rather, in the manner following: "I move for a call of the house." And here is the critical sentence, "The presiding officer shall direct that the board be cleared and the members shall vote on placing themselves under call." The presiding officer has the responsibility to place the matter before us, if we ask it. It is our prerogative to ask. It is not the prerogative of the Chair to pick and choose among those which the Chair wishes to entertain or not, but that the Chair shall hear. Now I, too, feel exactly the same way as Senator Withem and Senator Moore. I think the use of the strategic call of the house for debate purposes is unfair, and I have a tendency to vote against it when asked my opinion, but it is my opinion and the rest of us that should be asked. This is our decision. Frank Korshoj regularly votes red on calls of the house. More of us should join him. Every now and then we defeat a call of the house, when we think somebody is...it has been known to happen I would say ten times in the 11 years that I have been here, when we think that the process is being abused. Maybe we should cast a few more red votes when we do it, but it is our vote to cast and