

January 4, 1990

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And this is the Frank and Ernest show, that is Frank Korshoj. Members of the Legislature, and thank you, Senator Korshoj, I have seen situations where around the noon hour or the evening hour a lot of people who support a particular issue will leave, will leave, and somebody may move to cease debate, and there would not be 25 people to cease debate on that side of the...on the side that is trying to defeat the matter, and they want to force a vote while there are not 25 people to vote for it. And if it is not advanced, then that is one strike toward killing it. So if you can cease debate without a majority, then that is a strategy to use to prevent the advancement of a bill when there are not enough here to vote to advance it, and I hope I haven't confused you by the way I have explained it, but it is crystal-clear in my mind what I mean. In addition to that, if we are going to say that anybody who is opposed to something that is happening should be in a position of having to call the house or initiate activity rather than have rules that govern certain things, then I think we are moving in the wrong direction. On consent calendar and at other times, there have been bills and propositions with no negative votes but not the required 25, and we have to call the house to get the people here. Why don't we change that rule, too, and say that on any measure before the body when there are not at least five dissenting votes, then a majority of those voting can carry the day? So if we have a bill to be advanced on General File and the vote is 21 to 4, then that advances that bill because there are not five negative votes that would require a majority to vote for it. If we are going to establish principles that relate to the number of votes it takes to transact business, then we should have some consistency. As has been pointed out, a call of the house can be made, but if the purpose is to save time, then you have the call of the house first, and then you have the vote on whether to cease debate. If you require the people to be here to get the number of votes you want, then it is practically the same thing except that there is not the additional step of somebody having to call the house automatically. If there are not 25 votes to cease debate, let the debate continue. But if they insist, those who push this measure, on doing it, then in the same way that one person can place the house under call, one person can require a majority vote to pass a resolution, then one person should be able to require a majority of the votes to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: One minute.