

January 4, 1990

there are no other lights, did you want this to be your closing?
All right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature, Senator Haberman's last discussion just demonstrated the diversity that we have on this floor. The time that I am most keenly interested is when somebody standing up in opposition to my position, because if you agree with me, you might say what I have said in other words or in better words but we are on the same path going the same direction seeking the same goal. But when somebody is standing who might have a reasonable position that I haven't thought of, maybe I will change my position, and believe it or not, there have been times down here that I have had to change my position because my mind was persuaded, and it was persuaded by somebody who disagreed with my position, so those are the people that I listen to. Maybe I shouldn't tell you all that because you will take advantage of it and you'll say, aha, I have got him now. But I can do several things at one time, and I establish priority. Some things require a tenth of my brain to keep up with, others various fractions of 1 percent, so don't get arrogant. But the fact is on the issue that we are dealing with here, I genuinely have mixed emotions about the amendment that I am offering. I don't think we ought to have this rule at all as proposed by the Rules Committee. So if you vote against my amendment, I take no offense. I am not injured, I am not wounded. I wanted to offer it so that we could have additional discussion about another aspect of the matter. But what I would like to see, I was going to say defeat this amendment, then defeat the main one, but that might be putting the cart before the horse, because you may defeat this one, then adopt the other one. But on the other hand, if you adopt this one, it may make the other one palatable, then both of them will be adopted. What I would like you to do is use your best judgment and think about which...you all have no idea how difficult it is to speak down here. You all can't hear all the kibitzing that goes on around here. It is never picked up by the mike and it is never on the record. On occasion, you may sound incoherent or read incoherent based on people just picking your words off the paper because they don't know about the peanut gallery that is harassing, but I am going to try to push right on. If you adopt this amendment that I am offering or don't adopt it, I hope ultimately we will reject the major amendment, the main amendment, because it is not good rules making in my opinion.