

January 4, 1990

responsibility to come back and have the chance to try to get the 30 votes to...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: ...override. I think if we establish the rule the presumption will be that we will have that chance and you can make alterations after that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I've been talking on these rule changes all day, and I was not going to on this one. But I can't keep a promise to myself to keep quiet, I guess. The reason I want to speak is I'm somewhat concerned with the direction of the debate here. I was one of those senators that had a number of bills vetoed after we went home last year, and I was irate over it, I cannot share with you the degree of intensity of the feelings that I had about those bills being vetoed. But I don't think that's the reason to support this resolution. Every year people have bills vetoed that they'd rather wouldn't be vetoed. It's a power that our Constitution gives the Governor. It's a power that all Constitutions give to all Governors, to veto legislation. It's part of the very important checks and balances that we have in our governmental process. And there is nothing inherently evil about any governor, Kay Orr, Bob Kerrey, Jim Exon, Charlie Thone, or anybody for vetoing legislation. If they disagree with legislation and don't think it's consistent with the good policy of the state, they should do that. And that's what our Governor did last session. So I don't think that this ought to be an anti anybody sort of issue, and I'm concerned that it may be becoming that. We should not pass this rule change simply because we don't like a particular list of vetoes. I think we should pass this rule change, however, from an institutional perspective. I think it ought to be...we ought to, as a Legislature, make the policy statement that we believe that we should have an opportunity to have the final say by considering overrides of vetoes, that that is an option that the Constitution gives us and this rule change has put us on record saying we are going to accept that particular option, that we will take the last say. And this is not an easy thing to do. I guess it's really, in many ways, easy for a Legislature, as we have done way too often as a Legislature, to look at spending measures and say, oh, yeah, I like all of these, and send them