

January 8, 1990

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the Chambers motion to reconsider? Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Haberman.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I want to extend my appreciation to Senator Chambers on this motion to reconsider. There were four or five people gone that I would hope would help us. There were close to 20 votes the last time we considered this. Again, what we're attempting to do is simply to preserve for ourselves the opportunity at the end of the session to be sure, if we wanted to, to override vetoes. I just recall a number of people held hostage at the end of last session. I've been in that situation in years past with other Governors, and it seems clear to me that none of us want to be in that circumstance, that we need to allow the Legislature the chance to pass our legislation, the Governor consider signing or vetoing that legislation and then return that decision back to the Legislature for consideration of overrides. That's the way the system was set up, that's the way it's supposed to work, and that's the way we ought to make it happen. Now the checks and balances system, I want to point this out. As a Unicameral we do not have the two house system check and balance between one and the other, and we must play off of the Governor. We have a situation unique in the country in that regard. To not allow ourselves the override, I think again, further harms this body in the check and balance system that we have in our democracy. And so I feel that it doesn't take away anything, it helps us to do our job to represent our people and to make the best decisions. And, again, I think that mistakes have been made in the past that ought not be repeated, that have jeopardized, I think, good policy. And by doing this we don't get ourselves in the position where we can be held hostage against one another, and it helps us, I think, clearly to determine what we want to override and not put us in a bind where we can't even have that choice. So I very much favor the reconsideration and appreciate Senator Chambers effort. Hopefully, with some of you that weren't here the last time, we'll have the votes this time to have it adopted.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, followed by Senator McFarland and Lamb.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm going to support the reconsideration motion as I have had considerable interest, sincere interest, a verbal interest, letter interest