

first year I was appointed and came down, the body was so incensed that the Appropriations Committee felt that and they had a reaction to that, and, please, someone correct me if I am mistaken, but I do not believe I am. And the reaction to that was that we, that year, voted on the budget line by line, section by section, and subsection by subsection, and we were delayed. We had bills that were important that never saw the light of day, but Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee said, you did not know what was in the budget, you said, so we're going to make sure you understand it, we're going line by line and you said, fine, because it was a senator's right to do that. Nowhere did anyone in this body say, Senator Warner, or Appropriations Committee, wrong, it's going to take too long, you're causing an abuse of the rules. At no time did anyone offer a motion such as Senator Labeledz did today. The only reason we have that motion here today is because of the emotional issue, but you have already begun, through years of practice, allowing senators to divide their amendments or their appropriation bills the way they deem necessary. You have already set the precedent. I have mentioned to a lot of people that I may very well support and vote for 769. No one believes me, but I have mentioned I very well may. But there are some things that have to be talked about here, and, members of the body, you felt it as much as I did, you felt this issue flowing and moving and it was rolling and gaining momentum and it was going to get the 30 votes to suspend the rules and it was gone.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And, by the way, no one has ever mentioned that Senator Schmit had a motion to suspend the rules. He was not here, and that was fine, I understand that, but that motion to suspend the rules carries over to Select File if we were going to suspend the rules today, which you were going to do. No one has mentioned the fact that I would not have been able to offer an amendment on Select File because his was pending above anything else offered on Select File. Only Senator Chambers had a couple of amendments pending and that was it. We would have suspended the rules on Select File. I would not have been able to offer this as an amendment, and it was gone. We were not going to discuss it at all because we were tired. This is not a dangerous precedent because you set it.

PRESIDENT: Time.