

also speaking in support of Senator Labeledz's motion to override and I will tell you why. We don't need to worry about precedent on this floor. Every day we set a new precedent. The motion that was offered by Senator Labeledz, if and when we get to that vote, will be a vote, a vote on the bill, on the amendment of Senator Bernard-Stevens. It's that simple. If he has the votes for his amendment, then Bernice's motion will not carry. If he does not, then it will. So oftentimes we hear the danger of precedent. Well, let me tell you something. I think that those who are on the Appropriations Committee will agree that, having divided the question line by line, page by page, etcetera, etcetera, did not really educate those of us who are not on the budget committee. I think Senator Warner and the budget committee knew that we wouldn't know any more about the budget when we got through with that procedure than we did previously. We just had to sit through the burdensome, onerous task of doing on the floor what the budget committee does over a period of weeks or months. If we really want an input on the budget, we all know where to go, we go to the budget committee hearings and we participate in that manner.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That's also another reason why this amendment perhaps could have been offered in a better way, a better manner. I do not...don't argue with Senator Bernard-Stevens' system, his manipulation, if you call it that, his definition of himself as a sincere, sly fox is somewhat of a contradiction. I don't know if you can be a sincere, sly fox, but if he says you can, you can, and that's fine with me. But, in any case, he is using the system and so those who support his position can argue and argue emphatically that you can't set a precedent by denying him the right to divide the question. I just look at it the other way, just look at it from the plain old political hardball that's played on this floor day after day after day. You can divide the question if you've got 25 votes. If you haven't got 25 votes, you're not going to divide the question. And so whatever you do, don't stand up on this floor and invoke the moral principle of precedent.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, may I inter...Senator Bernice Labeledz's time is out and now you're on your own time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. Get my second wind. I think just it's very important that we recognize that the issue here is one