

understood was going to be up today, was to vote to sustain the Chair. And I would say, Senator Bernard-Stevens, it's a very fine line between having a reputation for being sly and a reputation for being slick. You don't want the second one, but that's neither here nor there with me. I sat down and I looked at the amendment now because I understood the question to be, is it divisible? And as I looked at how it was being currently proposed, it appeared to me that it was divisible, and that's the only question I have before me. None of the other questions which I don't deny their importance and are being discussed under a procedural basis, but the only question before me is, is the amendment divisible? Now, I, like all the rest of you, including myself, if I was to attempt to continually badger a bill, if that is what it comes out to be, I know full well there is no better way to assure the passage of legislation than to do that. And I also know that there is no surer way sometimes to make error because you cannot discuss the substantive issue and that is unfortunate, but that's just how it works frequently and so you accept that. But I think that it is a divisible motion as I have read it, and I am willing to discuss it on that basis and that is the basis of my vote. Has nothing to do with the substantive issue. And I would hope that we would keep in mind without all of the other analogies that can be drawn that what we are doing is suspending the rules with less than 30 votes. It's that simple, that is what we are doing, and it has happened before and I suppose sometimes it, when 10 years from now when you sit around as an old senator, ex-senator, well some of you won't be...10 years from now you won't be ex-senators, but when you do, why then you bring back these deals and you talk about them and funny about how something happened, but I happen to believe very strongly that the decorum of the body is important. I believe it's...that a motion to suspend the rules should not be done with a simple majority which, in effect, it is, and irregardless of how I stand on 769, I'm going to vote to allow this suspension, correction, this division of the question when we...if we get to that because I think as a matter of fact it was divisible. I'm not so sure that yesterday's division was divisible, but as I read this morning's it appears to me that there is a clear and distinct question that can be addressed.

PRESIDENT: One minute. Thank you. Senator Smith, please, followed by Senator Langford.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I had my light on. I would have liked to have talked about the