

be divided if, indeed, it is divisible, and, as a matter of fact and logic, this amendment is divisible. For the Chair to blatantly disregard the rule is a dereliction of duty, responsibility and a total disregard for not only the rules but the duties of somebody who is serving as Speaker and sitting in the Chair. As a member of this Legislature, I am entitled to believe that the rules as written will be applied. I am entitled, as a member of this Legislature, to have a Speaker who is not intimidated and buffalced into closing his eyes to the clear meaning of this rule. It requires no interpretation. It is not esoteric. It is not ambiguous. There is only one meaning that can be derived from reading the rule, no complexities. But the Chair has chosen to fall in line with those who, because they have the numbers, have determined that the rules will be disregarded. I feel no responsibility to accede to such an irresponsible and improper action by the Chair, whoever happens to be serving in that role. When people are elected to positions of leadership in this Legislature, there should be confidence that the person in that position will do what the duties of that position require, and the duties of the Speaker include a responsibility when sitting as the Chair to apply the rules as written, and the Speaker has chosen not to do that. There have been many instances, drawing an analogy, where there has been great prejudice and public outrage in a given community and a judge will be swayed by that outrage and disregard the facts of the case and the law, be swept along by the outcry and abdicate his or her responsibilities. Another judge, another court will have to correct that egregious error. In this instance, the Legislature has erred egregiously. Today is a new day. Today is a new beginning. Today the person sitting in the Chair was elected by the members of this body to hold the position of Speaker. The person sitting in the Chair yesterday had been elected to another position but was assigned by the Constitution the duty of presiding over the Legislature. He is an interloper. He is an outsider. Perhaps he is concerned about the fortunes of the Governor on whose ticket he ran last time. This is not an issue which is being discussed in a vacuum. There clearly are political ramifications to what is before us and I believe that those political ramifications are affecting and impairing the objectivity of the judgment of the people who have sat in the Chair on this issue. The Chair did not tell me that I misread the rule. The Chair did not tell me that no such rule is in the book. The Chair said, because of what the Legislature did yesterday, I am going to disregard the rule today. What kind of responsibility is that? And if a