

Senator Bernard-Stevens total amendment. There are parts of it that I think are totally inappropriate. But you'll notice in my discussion of the rules I haven't talked about the bill as such, as far as its contents, or the amendment that Senator Bernard-Stevens is offering, because we're dealing with the rules of the Legislature, and that has been my position from the beginning. It has been my position from the beginning. And some people talk about abuse of the rules because members will use the rules and do what they allow, yet those same self-righteous people will, by a vote of a majority, disregard the rules, and that's what their vote says, that the Legislature votes to disregard the existence of its own rule. That's what the majority voted and that's what the majority has the power to vote. But it's a power of numbers, not a power of moral and ethical right. That was an unethical vote, it was an unrighteous vote, it was a wrong vote and everybody who voted that way knows it. And I'm going to continue to deal with this issue of the rules because I think it is very, very important. I, as one, who am a member of a group who has to insist that the laws be properly applied, understand why rules have to be maintained inviolate. Vote to suspend them and you've done what the rules allow. I may not like the suspension, I might argue that it is unfair to vote to suspend at that time, but I cannot argue that the rules do not allow it. You are using the process that the rules allow to get around a problem that a rule in force might create.

PRESIDENT NICHOL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: There has been no vote to suspend any rules. And I do feel somewhat uncomfortable arguing in this fashion for the rules, because they're not my rules, but I think they should be maintained. And I think the Chair ruled incorrectly. And I believe that, in order to salvage the integrity of the system and the meaningfulness of the rules as rules that govern the actions of the Legislature, the Chair should be overruled.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is, shall the Chair be overruled? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. At the moment it appears that it requires 21 votes, unless others come in. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I just want to have a call of the