

rules, we're going to ignore fairness and we've been made exceptions in the past, this last week, and we're going to continue to make exceptions until the majority gets what it wants regardless of fairness, regardless of principle and regardless of what we, as an American institution, democratic institution are all about. And I can't emphasize enough, people, I have a feeling because I have been where you are. I have watched in the United States Senate sitting there on the floor, working in the Senate, watching a majority of which I was deeply involved with in the same predicament that you're in and it's agony. It's agony and frustration, but I have watched the best in our nation's capital. I watched the Barry Goldwaters, I watched the Hubert Humphreys, I watched the Strom Thurmonds, I watched the Jesse Helms, I watched the Ted Kennedys, I watched the Mike Mansfields, I watched the best and all of them understood more clearly than we do the principles by which our government was founded. And that principle is, I may not like what is happening personally, but I understand the concept of fair play. I understand the concept of the minority having a chance to fail. I'm not even saying a chance to win, I'm saying a fair chance to fail because that, my friends, is when democracies are challenged. That's when democracies fail, not during good times when everything is happy and we make political deals, Senator Schmit, or we do sneaky movements on 775 or we bring up Omaha Bergan-Mercy in order to bypass the CON review at the last minute. Those are during good times, but when push comes to shove on a deep emotional feeling that goes to the root of all of us, that's when our patience on democracy will be tested and we're here. I wish the issue were a better one, but we're here now. Some people have suggested to me that we're watching disintegration of the system, or the system is looking embarrassing to the public. I would put to you the opposite. The feedback that I have gotten from the people and I've explained exactly what I'm doing and why, the feedback has been go to it, go to it. We're sick and tired in western Nebraska of being stomped on all the time by a majority who sometimes don't want to take care of us and we understand this is a different issue, but we understand what is happening, there is a principle involved. I feel deeply on this issue, on fairness. And, people, I don't mind if my amendments were brought up and defeated. I don't mind if my amendments to the amendments that were good, by the way, remember, the motion to suspend the rules so that no further amendments could be offered were filed before I filed one amendment to the amendment, before I filed one, the motion to suspend the rules was filed. I don't mind getting an