

got to the point where it was time for the majority to say, now, let's move, that the majority would have then moved. And we would have gotten to suspension, a motion agreed to, we would have moved it to Select File, and then there would have been another battle on Select File. And as soon as the people on the opposing side had had a chance to offer some amendments, at least having the chance to appear as if there was good discussion and they'd had an opportunity and they may have failed at that point, but then the body would have said now it is time to move on and we would have. But that is not what happened, and I think just what happened is just a group of people becoming too anxious. What happened, in about an hour of debate on Monday morning was that a young senator from North Platte was put in the position of having one little amendment of his first coming up with a major one following, but he got in a position where, after his little amendment, there was a cease debate motion. No amendments could then be offered again on General File. Senator Schmit, through no fault of his own, was absent, and so his suspension motion had been rolled to the bottom under a few amendments, three amendments by Senator Chambers, and when we would have agreed to Senator Labeledz's suspension motion, and we would have in the body, we would have then moved the bill to Select File with a suspension motion already there. So any amendments that I, in good faith, Senator Hefner, and I did, my amendment that I have before you now is one that I have worked very hard on in the interim was one in good faith, and I think, as you and I have talked, you would even agree that there are some parts in that you even like on that amendment, I would not under those circumstances been able to even offer that.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: So I decided I am going to offer my amendment as a substitute, and I am going to try to slow this down a little bit, and then what happened immediately was a suspension order was put on my amendment so that I could not even offer any amendments to my amendment, and I did have two or three that were changes that needed to be made. Senator Labeledz put the suspension motion even before I had put a single amendment to my amendment. So now a little school teacher from North Platte who believed in democratic principles was faced with a decision. Are we going to allow a majority to cease debate all across the board, stamp out any token opposition and ram this sucker through? And it is something that a little