

April 4, 1990

LB 854, 976
LR 239

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have with respect to today's activity is by Senator McFarland. Senator McFarland would move to overrule the Speaker's agenda and consider a motion to suspend the rules relative to LB 854.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow senators, this is a very important motion. I think it is one that will get us out of the logjam and I notice a mood of the legislative body to get on with business, and the motion, in effect, is to consider a subsequent motion that is up next to suspend the rules. That motion to suspend the rules will allow for debate on LB 854 for a one-hour time period. It would permit people on the legislative floor to speak only once, and at the end of that hour, the primary introducer will be able to close on that bill and the bill will be voted, either advanced to Final Reading or will not advance. One of the things that we all know is going on here right now, as evidenced by the initial motions, is that there is a concerted effort to delay any consideration of any business on this day, and there have already been statements by members on the legislative floor that they will do anything to filibuster so that LB 854 never comes to a vote. This, I think, would allow us, assuming this motion to override the Chair's or to overrule the Chair's agenda and to approve the motion to suspend, and they are passed, it would give us one hour of debate on the bill. I am sure that there will be enough chances for both proponents and opponents to voice their view. Actually, LB 854 is a fairly simple bill. It only makes a couple of changes. One is to require a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion is performed, and the second thing it does is to require that the woman considering the abortion have information about the stage of development of the fetus at the time of the abortion. That is all. There are already some...there is already requirements about certain information given to the woman already so it would just add that one particular thing. The problem we are facing right now in this last day in which any bill from Select File can advance is that other bills, as you well know, have been purposely delayed in an attempt to prevent a vote on LB 854. My suspicion is that LR 239CA has had several amendments to it that were not absolutely necessary and the purpose of all those amendments was to delay consideration on LB 854. I am almost 100 percent assured and believe that all of the amendments to LB 976 were not offered just to try to improve LB 976. They were offered