

the reasons. If I would have been on 854's side, I would be arguing the same thing. Well, look what they did, look what we're having to fight. They're street fighting, we need to get in there and fight, too. I understand that and I don't condemn them for that. That is exactly what I would do, I suspect, in their positions, though I would also suspect that I held a deeper, and that's not correct to say I hold a deep feeling towards the Constitution of the right, at least, of people to have a fair say. And I firmly believe, ladies and gentlemen, there's a Senator Schmit term, I firmly believe that if I held a bill in the future or at any time that is very emotional, I will never, and I've learned this very truthfully this year, I would never try to cease debate. I could be filibustered to death on the other side, and that is the system. The system does work, it works for the minority, it works for the majority. Of course when somebody says, wait a minute, Senator Bernard-Stevens, we are the majority and it certainly hasn't worked for us this year, I always want to remind them when we go back to last year, LB 769, twice the system worked. Filibuster occurred, suspension of the rules came up, we voted whether or not to suspend the rules to cease debate and the votes weren't there. Not once, twice the votes of the body weren't there. We can give whatever excuses we want why the votes weren't there. But we in the body knew the votes were coming, we knew when they were going to be, and the votes that were supposedly there were not. If they would have been there the system would have worked. But the point was they were not, and that was last year. This year instead of letting the system work to where we get to a suspension motion and hoping that the votes were there, this year we're not going to take a chance on that, say those that were supporting the bill. This year we're going to suspend the rules all the way across, no debate, no amendments, on an issue that so bitterly divides this state,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that we are going to have no debate whatsoever. I cannot think of anything as anti-democratic as that, and you can put whatever face you want on it. I can think of nothing as anti our principles that we have fought and died for than that. This is the body where we fought and fight for the ideas to be exchanged, and these are heavy ideas and emotional, and we can expect no less from the outcome. There is going to be a lot of discussions this evening, and I hope people will use the opportunity when they see fit, because there will