

bill at all. Many of us had amendments we wanted to offer and, unfortunately, after about the first hour of debate began this week, the first time this session, Senator Labeledz did probably what I have been told from people who had been there for over 20 years one of the biggest power plays in the history of the Legislature, and she, basically, said, we are not filing a motion, we are not going to have any more amendments or debate at all on General File. I had an amendment I was able to get substituted so at least I might be able to get talking about that. She filed a motion immediately after I put my amendment up saying we are not going to have any more amendments on discussion on Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment, and Senator Schmit filed a motion on the next stage of debate, before we even got there, saying, by the way, we are not going to have any further amendments or discussion there either. And, when in essence, it was saying that we don't care if anybody even wants to try to change the bill, we don't care if there is even a better alternative to the bill, we want it our way and that is it. No further debate. And they, basically, took away the whole democratic principle of our Legislature and that is everyone gets a fair chance to have their say and a fair chance to discuss the bill. Now I'd be the first to admit that if a filibuster would have started, that is the time to begin saying we have had enough debate, but that happened within an hour of the debate on the bill, and then what happened? Senator Labeledz by stretching the rules...I stretched the rules? Can anyone recall whether I did that last year? For the most part said senators can't do basic things like dividing a question, and if you recall it was in about 15 parts, which is what you are able to do, and when that begins to happen, I simply said nobody is going to do that to our legislative system. I don't care what the issue is, because if I allow that or anybody else allows that to happen on that issue, then else on other issue that they feel is important will use the same thing and, in essence, what we have is a power by you know dictatorial rules in the Legislature, no democratic principle, no opportunity to anyone to have a fair chance to say anything, and that is intolerable, and I cannot and could not stand for that, and so I began to use parliamentary techniques until Senator Labeledz and Senator Schmit basically allowed some fair play, and they never did. Now someone said that you are not just playing games around the whole thing, that you were just not basically in favor of the bill to begin with, this is the announcer, incidentally. Bernard-Stevens, that you may even be pro-abortion...this the announcer: That you may even be pro-abortion and that is what