

the rule be suspended to permit the amendment by Senator Conway to be taken up to LR 239.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem is next, but may...okay, Senator McFarland, then Senator Wesely, but may I introduce a couple of guests of Senator Scott Moore first. Under the south balcony, Jane Graff of Seward, would you please rise. Thank you. And Dr. Eldon Meyer who is President of the Nebraska District Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. Also, Dr. Meyer, would you please rise. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Let me rise in objection to the way we are handling this issue and this constitutional amendment, both for this bill and for the next one. Let's think this through a little bit because we have provisions in our Constitution that provide for any legislation to have to be before us for a certain number of days before it can be taken up. We amended a bill last Thursday and now we are going to be considering it after this, and it has only been before us for a matter of days. Senator Warner just talked about when they get done typing up some amendment and bringing it down or something and passing it out so we can all look at it for a few minutes before we vote on it, we are amending the Constitution of this state, a Constitution that should be rarely amended, I think, and should be done with great questioning and I hope with some forethought so that we understand that when a Constitution is amended it is there for a long, long time. And slight wording changes, slight problems that might occur because of lack of attention to detail on constitutional amendments can haunt us for not only years but decades, as we have seen with the Initiative 300, which I supported, but which had some drafting errors. We are still suffering from some of the problems. As a result, we have yet been unable to amend that legislation. Now we are trying to do in the last hour, not only the eleventh hour, but it is close to midnight, we are about to try again to deal with an issue with amendments and further changes that if this was a bill we would never be possible to handle. And legislation we can amend. We can come back next year if we have a problem and amend it, but if we make an error today in the next few minutes, in the next few hours on this issue, we could be paying a price far into the future. I simply think it is wrong, and there is another thing that we have to keep in mind on constitutional amendments. You have no opportunity for the Governor to veto if she or he finds an error. If we have