

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, followed by Senator Korshoj and Senator Moore.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body. Frankly, the Haberman motion has a lot of personal appeal to me. I have nothing more to say about the legislation, maybe a speech somewhere along the line, just kind of reiterating some of the things I said earlier on, just so one more time I can hear them say them. I don't know if you want to hear them again or not. I think I know the answer to whether you want to hear them again or not. I have no amendments to offer. I have little else to do on this legislation. Frankly, I'd like to go home, I'd like to go home by noon. But that is not what being a legislator is all about. Being a legislator involves participating in the legislative process. Our Constitution indicates that there are three separate stages of consideration on legislation. What Senator Haberman is asking that we do is that we ignore the third stage of consideration for debate. I think that is improper. These are very complex matters. We have had two years of dealing with this problem, as you've heard me say before, and we have now had specific proposals advanced to us as short as two weeks ago. For us to pretend that we as legislators fully understand all of the ramifications in this legislation, and that we have solved the problem and it is now time to go home, even without the third stage of consideration on these bills, I think is grossly irresponsible. I, from time to time, favor...vote in favor of motions such as this one. There are times I think when, at a particular stage of debate, we have exhausted all serious consideration of a proposal and it is time then to take the extraordinary step of suspending rules and to move on. We have not begun the third stage of consideration of this legislation. It does not appeal to me in the slightest, frankly. Senator Chambers, you're an incredibly eloquent individual and I enjoy listening to you. I really don't want to spend the day listening to you. Sit down. (Laughter.) Don't take it too heavy. I really don't want to spend the day here listening to you. I don't want to spend the day here listening to lots of other people talk about this legislation, but that is what this legislative process is all about. To vote for this motion at this time, I think, is the height of irresponsibility and I would urge you, regardless of your position on the issues, regardless of your desire to go home, regardless of what other considerations you may have, for the sake of the legislative process, which is supposed to be a deliberative process, I don't think you can vote in favor of