

February 20, 1991

what I see as having happened here. And I'm not pleased with it. I have one vote and I can cast my vote. I can speak on the issues as the opportunities present themselves. I think it was a serious mistake for this Legislature to say that it takes formal action to initiate a contest, a formal acceptance of that contest by the Legislature, but it takes no formal action by the Legislature to withdraw it. Senator Kristensen and I have talked about this thing in court, and we both agree that, even if it's a motion that you offer that's routinely withdrawn, the court still must take some action on the motion. The mere filing of a motion in court doesn't result in you getting what you desire. The court grants it, or the court overrules it. Even if it's something that once you file the motion you have a right to get what the motion is asking for, the court must rule before any action occurs. The court must have a record of what it did with reference to any motion that is brought before it. And there are only two things it can do, it can accept the motion to grant it, or overrule it. This Legislature chose to do nothing. The Legislature said that somebody who is a stranger to our process can come in here and dictate to us, then without our taking any action we are derailed in what we are doing. Every other thing that we try to do here, we offer it to the Legislature, and even if they routinely grant it, for example, I want to withdraw a bill, the Legislature still votes to withdraw the bill. There is some action by the Legislature, and we didn't do that. Sometimes in the rush and the haste to score a political victory great harm is done to the system. This may be what's been called a Pyrrhic victory. In the immediate encounter you prevail,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...but you lose so much in trying to prevail in that battle that you cannot fight anymore, and you lose the war. And that's what a Pyrrhic victory is, and that's what was obtained by those this morning who want to find an easy and quick way to get out of our doing our responsibility. Trying to find a way to say that we won't leave footprints of where we were. We won't leave fingerprints of what we have done. We will destroy all circumstantial evidence. We'll behave in such a way that this never really happened, it never really happened. We are so fearful of how people might construe what we did that we say we will do nothing, and hope that the public will not be mindful of the debates that we've had, the contentiousness that has taken place within and without the Legislature and the body