

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Conway. This is a debatable motion so we will recognize the senators in the following order. Senators Withem, Beutler, Chambers, Hefner, Abboud and Schmit. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Madam Chair, members of the body, I would hope that this would be one time that the members would vote on the measure before us and what it may potentially do to our body in the future as opposed to voting on their views as it relates to LB 7. I know a lot of times people tend to vote on procedural motions as to whether they will impact favorably or unfavorably concerning the matter at hand. But this is a procedure that, in my memory, has not happened. Senator Beutler had indicated not in his memory. I can remember, as a teacher of American Government, watching the Legislature in action several years ago when Shirley Marsh and Jack Mills and Don Dworak and Senator Labeledz, yes, thank you, were involved in other activities. Senator Mills was pulled off the stage giving a graduation speech. Some senators were attending a water conference in Kansas City and they were brought back for a state aid measure. Has not been done since then and I think it's wise that it not be done. This is a citizen Legislature. I was a little offended by some of Senator Elmer's comments earlier about his ability to determine for the rest of us what is important in our lives and where we should be. We are elected by our constituencies, we are accountable to them. We should not be in a situation where a majority, a simple majority, I don't even know what it is, simple majority, an absolute majority of the body can compel us to be here. If we are not here and if our constituents...we are not doing a job for our constituents, our constituents can, in fact, remove us. I am fearful of what the precedent will establish. I also, I guess, would comment on another remark made by Senator Conway in reference to the held hostage issue. It is as if once there...that there is no reason for having a 33-vote requirement in our Constitution, that there is no reason for having a 30-vote requirement, that if the majority of the members here want a particular action to take place, it is incumbent upon the rest of us to cave in to that just so that we will assure that they have the 33 votes. There is a reason for having 33-vote requirements, 40-vote requirements, other super majority requirements in the Constitution. And when we do not reach those super majority then that's the way our system operates and that's the way it should operate. This is a dangerous precedent. Those...if those of you who want to see LB 7 passed and are going to vote