

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this motion because I feel that we didn't take the first vote by compelling a hundred percent attendance and now as we reconsider, well, then we want to change the rules of the game and I don't think that's fair. It was also mentioned a little earlier that this is an unresponsive body. Well, I would like to have that senator tell me what unresponsive means and to what issue. I think we've been very responsive here this afternoon. But because some of the senators didn't win, well, they want to change and say we're not unresponsive. I think this is a change of policy and I think if we're going to do this, well, then we should have done it on the first vote. At the present time, I understand there is six or seven members excused and I imagine they're excused for a good reason because they had something else to do. The other morning I had to get excused because I had to go to a funeral. I would certainly hate to be taken out of a church where I was attending a funeral to come back to this body, because on this particular issue I don't see any hurry about it. The Supreme Court didn't give us a time frame, didn't give us a date to do this. And then the Attorney General went to the district court to see what he interpreted. He didn't put any time frame in there. And so the Attorney General says, well, he thinks that we have enough time till the first of the year or at least after the election. And so I think we ought to...I think we ought to consider all those things. Now if we're going to have to wait here until we bring back all the excused senators, well, we could go into another day, I suppose. So I would urge you to vote against this motion.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Abboud, followed by Senator Schmit, Conway, Labeledz and Bernard-Stevens. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I support Senator Conway's motion. He has done the responsible thing. Had he not done so, others might have done so, I would have done so. It's kind of interesting to hear some of our esteemed colleagues say this is not an important issue. Last time we did this we brought people in because it was a state aid vote, it was over money. This is over the representation of people and there are times perhaps when the line ought have been drawn in the sand earlier relative to the way the matter was handled. It was not done so at that time for a variety of reasons. But Senator Conway is absolutely correct when he said it's time to