

January 18, 1995

Senator Warner and Senator Chambers talking about the absolute right to divide the question and the ability of a minority to have their say has made a great impression on me. I think that perhaps Senator Chambers is correct in asking for the two-thirds majority in order to abridge that right so that it is a super two-thirds of the membership. And I believe I will support his amendment to my amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Elmer. There are no further lights. Senator Chambers, would you like to close?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I would. Madam President, members of the Legislature, this amendment does not make a bad situation good. It does not right a wrong. It's as though somebody stuck a knife six inches into my back and this pulls it out two inches. I still have a knife in my back. It is deeply enough in my back, deep enough in my back to cause substantial damage. I'm trying to engage in damage control. If you adopt this amendment, it doesn't make what is being offered any more palatable. It makes it a bit less onerous and a bit less unjust. It doesn't convert an injustice into a just situation.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the closing. The question is, shall the Chambers amendment to the Elmer amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed no. We're voting on the Chambers amendment to the Elmer amendment. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Chambers' amendment to the Senator Elmer's amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: The Chambers amendment is adopted. We're back to the Elmer amendment. Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, your light is on and we are on the Elmer amendment now.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I started talking earlier about Thomas Jefferson, and although that man was holding slaves, he wrote some words that have become known as the Declaration of Independence and the words were not new to the world. Much of what these so-called founding fathers and American thinkers wrote in the Revolutionary literature during that period were copies of things that had been said throughout the ages in England and other parts of Europe. But he started by saying, we, meaning white people because that's all he was talking about, hold these truths to be self-evident that all