

February 24, 1995 LB 830

to be criticized. That is the situation we are in, that is what happens. Given that decision we are operating under a tight frame. LB 830 having advanced the other evening, on February 22, was then eligible to be a day of layover yesterday and to be read on final reading today. That was my scheduling judgment at that time. Had we gone all the way to cloture we would have not been able to have done that until the next morning. That would have lost an additional day. The process of suspending the rules to vote without debate or further debate or amendment is not something that I created. It is a long standing tradition in this body. It has been used since we have had cloture. Somehow there is this assumption that now we have cloture every member has a god given right to spend eight full hours at any stage of debate is not an interpretation which I share. That was my rationale for the decision taken the other evening. In retrospect we may well have, Senator Coordsen I think pointed out, which is kind of an axiom that I had forgotten about that usually procedural motions to speed things up take longer than actually going through the process and that is kind of what we are doing here today also and I have been avoiding any of those procedural steps.

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: But, that was my decision the other night was to move that amendment at that time so that bill could move that evening. If individual members have their feelings hurt because of that, that is part of the burden that a person has to make when he is making motions and has a leadership role in moving a bill through. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you Senator Withem. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you Madam President and members, Senator Withem would you respond to a question?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Withem, will you yield?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Go ahead.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Withem, did you not have a suspension motion filed on the desk early in the process the other night?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall, I'm not going to stand here and debate point by point with you. If you would like to make a