

have to give them a different focus and direction. We have introducers who don't know what the bills say, don't know what they mean, so we have to do that rewriting on the floor. And if that's the body's will, don't get upset when a lot of time is taken on these bills on the floor. You all in your committees advance them maybe as a favor to the introducer, and I'm going a bit far afield on this because I think this needs to be said. If you do it just to placate or accommodate one of your colleagues, and there are people such as myself who take our legislating seriously, don't be saying, why do we take all this time? Why don't we quit offering these amendments? Why don't we just advance the bill and give it to who wants the bill. I'm not going to do it. This particular amendment is not sinister. I don't think that the republic will even shiver, let alone tremble or fall. But just think and consider what it is that you're doing. We know that other efforts will be done...will be undertaken to do this as the session progresses because powerful special interest groups are going to begin to see that issues they want the Legislature to enact are not going to get the consideration they want and you're going to have motions to suspend the rules, and suspend the rules. And since you've done it for one, that makes it easy to do it for another. So the clever and wise and savvy thing being done by our clever and wise Chairperson of the Rules Committee is to take a little, teenie, weenie, peanut-head item to get you to suspend the rules, and that's how precedents are started. You don't take a dinosaur, which everybody is going to pay attention to and want to evaluate and analyze in terms of the damage it might cause, you take something innocuous, and I agree this amendment is innocuous. But just consider what you're doing. I look at a session before we even start it and I base the way I'm going to conduct myself on the overall trip that we have to conclude from the first day to the last. So if this is the way we're going to do business, and it's within the rules, it is within the rules, be prepared for me to conduct my business of legislating according to the rules, standards and principals that guide my conduct. I will not vote one way or the other on the suspension of the rules because generally I'm opposed to that. You all adopted these rules, I'm the only one who voted against them. You ought to at least stay within your own rules. When you all get angry at me, not one time did you get angry because I violated the rules or operated outside the rules, but you got angry because I complied with the rules.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.