

motion. I just wanted to advise you of that...every...and I'm not urging you necessarily to vote in favor of it, but I want to give my rationale because the cloture rule has never been imposed on a budget bill before, I wanted to make you aware that that would be coming up.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, and with all due respect to Speaker Withem, whether an amendment is adopted or not is not the crucial point, in my opinion. Bills are brought before us and if somebody has an amendment they want to offer to try to just make a point, that opportunity should be there. I have talked a lot about the Legislature controlling the purse strings even though we don't do a good job of it and we allow ourselves to be kicked around anyway, but this might be the bill on which many issues need to be raised. I can understand the Speaker wanting to move forward. I can understand everybody else wanting to move forward, but I will vote against cloture. I will vote against cloture on every issue every time that motion is made, whether I agree with the bill on which cloture is being invoked, whether I disagree with it. At this point, I'm prepared to vote in favor of LB 392 but I'm not going to vote for cloture. I wish we had never adopted that rule. I wish the Legislature had not. I voted against it and once that was adopted I voted against the adoption of the rules at the beginning of every session and I will continue to do so because I don't think that is a good practice or policy for us to have in a one-house Legislature. There will be no other opportunities, really, to offer amendments to this bill except when it gets to Final Reading and amendments are attached there will be an attempt to attach them and on each one you will have to pull it back, attempt to pull it back from Final Reading in order to add an amendment. So time will be taken on this bill. If I had an amendment that was pending at this point and cloture were to be successfully invoked, I would refile my amendment to the bill and seek to bring it back from Final Reading. What is happening is that a lot of bills are being jammed up on Select File. A difference between this bill and the others is, as the Speaker pointed out, that this is a budget bill, the big one, and it is important. It's going to have to pass this session. But I still am opposed to the cloture motion. Since that is not a motion where any debate is allowed, I have to make my comments at this point. I know that the