

January 10, 1996

bring the whole Legislature to a halt. It doesn't take but a mere handful. With this rule change we're not moving dramatically away from chaos and order...over to the side of order, certainly not over to the side of the spectrum which is unreasonable order, but merely making it possible to debate the important things, to debate them in an orderly manner so the important amendments are heard and dilatory kinds of amendments don't come ahead of all the real amendments and we never have a good piece of legislation 'cause we have to vote cloture and we vote cloture on what we know is an imperfect...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..piece of legislation because the right amendments never got up. So I think there's a very strong argument for taking one small step a little more on the side of order rather than allowing to happen what has happened in past sessions. This is really a defining moment. It is really a defining moment and you're either going to let it go or you're going to grab hold of things and change the way we do things a little bit, and I hope you realize how important this moment is. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. Many times I find it troubling when Senator Chambers speaks ill of the Legislature. I continually try to wrestle with and understand why he's so willing to be critical of this institution and, even after he explains it to me, I still...I still have questions. I think Senator Chambers should be thankful to whomever he wants to be thankful to for this nonpartisan Unicameral because without it I think Senator Chambers, serving at another legislative chamber across this country, many, many times and many, many years would be completely muffled. And it's just with that in mind that I understand, of course, that he's not taking after any one particular senator and yet each one of us together do make up this legislative organization. I just wish he would keep that in mind at times. You know, we really are fortunate in that we are 49 independent contractors. You know, we've all attended conferences and listened to the acrimony that takes place in the state houses across this country with new members, old members, mavericks not being able to have their legislation considered because it's been held down by the