

January 17, 1996

discuss everyone's point of view because the Speaker does not have the power to remove amendments as out of order. And that because of that, the characterization that this gives the Speaker an inordinate amount of power, is somewhat overblown during this debate. And from that standpoint, I feel that we are safe in doing this without corrupting our procedure. And I would vote to suspend the rules and hope you will adopt this as a part of our permanent rules. Whether it's used or whether it is not used would remain to be seen. And with that, I thank you for your attention and will relinquish the rest of my time.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Fisher.

SENATOR FISHER: Mr. Speaker and members, amen to boring. Well, in the other world that I lived, I recognize the importance of leadership, that's been my life. And I recognized the importance, if I go back far enough, to having the power that you need to make decisions when you have to make them. I think it's very important that we look at rules as a dynamic thing, a thing that changes from time to time. And the changes are made there are necessary because of us. I used to have a rule in my other life that I didn't make rules. I didn't want a lot of rules to apply because that knew then I had rules that I had to enforce. So maybe I was a little bit lazy when it comes to that, but I think common sense was a thread I always tried to hang my hat on. I think there's a book, I think when I was with Senator Beutler the other day in Grand Island he talked about the book on common sense. Whatever happened to it in politics? I think that we could probably do without these rules if we just took a common sense approach to most of these issues. You know, we're here to do a lot of work and we've got a full table before us. And without taking the common sense look at it, we're not going to get it done; in fact, I doubt if we get very much done because we continue to haggle and work over it. Now I recognize the importance of the majority ruling, and I think that's a good rule, it's a great rule, and I'm awfully proud of being a part of it. But we must move on. So I ask that you vote for suspend the rules and then vote on the amendment to change the rules. I think it's very important to move in this direction and that we do give the Speaker, sure, a certain amount of power, but I think it's well meant and I think we, as the honey bees, need to look towards that queen bee for that guidance. Again, please vote for suspend the rules and the amendment. Thank you.