

January 17, 1996

SENATOR COOKDSEN: Thank you, Senator Fisher. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: I'd like to call the question.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Debate has ceased. Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your motion?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature, I do not wish to take much time to close. I think you have heard every argument that could be possibly made both pro and con. Senator Chambers has been masterful in his defense of the existing rules, but they are very hard rules to defend because they are so loose and liberal in terms of an orderly process that I don't think they're truly defensible. Each of you probably has made up his or her mind already, and so I won't speak further. But I hope you will see this as a reasonable experiment. Next year we adopt our rules again. If it fails, it fails. We can change our minds. I'm certainly willing to change my mind. But at least with respect to focusing on important things, and with respect to focusing on important amendments, this rule can help us. It's not going to solve all our problems and...and sometimes I think we got mixed up in this debate with respect to limiting debate or terminating debate. The debate will be just as long even if you adopt this rule. This has nothing to do with the time spent on any particular bill or debating. All it says is that whatever that time spent may be, we will use it as best we can. We will give the Speaker the first right to say how it's best used. But in each and every dis...each and every case that he makes a decision, that can be overruled by the body. So nowhere do we give, as most legislatures have, an absolute right in the Speaker, but we retain always, in each and every case, the ability ourselves, each and every one of us, to make a decision about the orderly discussion of important matters. So I hope you can support both the motion to suspend and the substance of the rule. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We're ready to vote on the rule suspension motion. Record, Mr. Clerk.