

February 27, 1996 LR 46

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Robinson, followed by Senator Bromm and Hillman.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Call the question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question before the body now is, shall debate now cease? All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: The question is called. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to close on your motion to bracket.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm going to explain again why I'm offering the amendment, and I'm not going to argue the merits or "nonmerits" of the bill (sic). There are other propositions that are dealing with the counties being considered in the Revenue Committee. There should be a comprehensive review rather than piecemeal. I think Senator Hillman has even acknowledged defects that exist, or improvements that can be made in this bill (sic), but they're not to be made on General File. So I guess that means it's supposed to be advanced to Select File, then we hash out everything in the proposals that may come before us from the Revenue Committee, then we try to get back up to speed based on the kind of discussion we're having here today on this proposal, and we continue having a disjointed discussion of something which should lead us to put all of the pieces or parts together and deal with them at one time. The bracket motion has no date included, and it would permit the Speaker, and we can't stop the Speaker from doing it, even if a date were put into it, because the Speaker sets the agenda, it would permit the scheduling of the bills related to this subject together. I don't think anybody would object to us doing that on the bill's that had been labeled property tax measures, it would be expected. This is a profound departure from the way things are done. We're going to amend the constitution, and before doing that we've already seen the Supreme Court say that proper attention and care ought to be given to amending this important document. But this is not where the public at large is being presented something that was poorly drafted and they can only vote yes or no, based on what