

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 13, 1999

SENATOR COORDSEN: You've heard the motion. Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 36 ayes, 2 nays on the adoption of the proposed rules change, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: The rules change is adopted. Next item, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: The next proposed rules change is offered by Senator Chambers and copies have been distributed. (See page 166 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Chambers, to open on your proposed rule change.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And, members of the Legislature and to my new colleagues, in your desk drawer is a copy of the rule book. It will be in a black binder and it is the purple colored book. And I'm going to tell you the page number of this rule that I'm dealing with. It will be on page 50 in the rule book, and I'm saying that as though I am addressing it to my new colleagues, but some of my more ancient colleagues may need to be directed to it in that manner too because sometimes the numbering of the rules may be somewhat confusing because a subsection may have several lettered portions of it, and you may look at the wrong (g), parenthetical (g). So on page 50, about midway down the page, you'll see a paragraph labeled (g). That's the one that I want to repeal. It is what was known as structured debate. Last session there was great concern expressed on the floor of the Legislature, and this concern had been fueled in part by criticisms leveled by various editorial writers, lobbyists, and others who did not like the way that I would resort to extended debate on various issues, and it was felt that a rule such as this would restrain what it was that I would do. Those who were here last session know that it did not restrain me, as I had said it would not restrain me. This session the heat is not present during the discussion. I am offering this repeal motion because I see it simply as a bad rule. What can be done with this repealer, if it's successful, is still invoke cloture. That ought to be enough. If you get enough votes, you can stop all debate. On