

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

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LR 18

SENATOR SCHROCK: I call the question.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? Those in favor please vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Debate has ceased. Senator Kristensen, to close on the advancement of LR 18CA.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm glad I provided you with the opportunity for comedy hour, the amateur hour. Senator Schimek, you win, the hair-raising experience of Senator Tyson was too much. I...every one of us were elected here to do one thing, and that's to carry out our system of government. That's representative democracy. Sounds kind of corny. We've heard that forever. Everybody banter that about. But stop for just a couple of minutes tonight and think about that. What is representative democracy? It isn't direct democracy. We don't have a huge town hall meeting. We don't pass government by letters to the editor, we don't do it by editorials, we don't do it by talk shows. That's direct democracy. Why don't you do that? Well, one is that it's not particularly fair, it's never really worked anywhere. But there's an element that's missing by all those, and that's called judgment, the patience to sit and listen, the difficulty it is when there are two good sides to an issue and you have to choose between them, when your constituents want one thing, threaten you that, if you don't do that, they're going to do something to you, and threaten your political life, and you know, on the other hand, that what the right thing to do is, and you struggle with that. If you're Senator Cudaback, you may spend several nights of sleepless time. For others it's not very hard to do, don't worry about it. But every one of you were elected for judgment, that's what representative democracy is. Once you allow that constitution, as sacred as it is, because that really is the only protection you have, that's the rule book, it limits the Legislature. Amendments we pass in here limit ourselves. I don't like that. I don't like when the Supreme Court tells me I can't do