

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

January 13, 2003

Mr. President, I'm finished at this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. You've heard the opening. Are there any senators who wish to address the proposal? Seeing none, Senator Hudkins, do you wish to close? Senator Hudkins waives closing. Members, the question before us is the adoption of rules change proposal number four. All those in favor please signify by voting aye, and those opposed vote nay.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Rules Committee amendment number four.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have other amendments, as proposed by members. The first amendment is by Senator Maxwell. And again, I might indicate to the membership, copies have been distributed and are on your desk. (Legislative Journal page 109.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Maxwell, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. As I mentioned before, my amendment is to change the cloture rule to reduce the number of votes needed to invoke cloture from 33 to 30. Two years ago, Senator Brashear made a motion in floor debate that effectively would have reduced the number of votes needed to cease debate from 33 to 25. There was contentious debate about that measure, and eventually Senator Brashear withdrew the motion. I recall at the time I was prepared to vote for his motion. I was uncomfortable about it, though, because it did seem like the kind of change in rules that probably should have been made on the front end of the session when we're discussing rules and we're discussing the way we ought to do business. When Senator Brashear withdrew his motion, he said, if we keep