

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

January 13, 2003

year or so and then repealed. So I feel like it's appropriate that I stand and at least express some perspective on this proposal. At first glance, when I first came to the Legislature, and after being here a year or so, I might have voted for this proposal at that point. But having observed the way the body functions over these years, I have a much greater respect for the fact that we're organized the way we are, in the unique way that we are. We don't run for our committee Chairs under any party label. We don't have minority and majority whips. We are quite a fluid body, able to represent our constituents as a District 23 senator, or District 20, or whatever, or the state as a whole, as a state senator. And in doing that, I think it is extremely important that we do business here in a deliberate way and in a way that results in a good, in many cases, compromise for the minority and the majority. And sometimes that wouldn't happen if it weren't for this particular aspect of this rule. The trade-off, I think, originally, when the rule was adopted for having an immediate ceasing of debate with no debate on that motion, and having an immediate vote on the question at hand, was that it would take a supermajority of 33 votes. And that has served us fairly well. I've been on both sides of that through the years. I've been on the losing side, and I've been on the winning side, so to speak. A couple of things that come to mind. The longest debate, I think, if you check the records, since the enactment of the cloture rule, was on LB 806, which happened to be an education bill a few years ago, which changed the financial aid formula structure. And there were terrific concerns on the part of smaller schools, because we were eliminating all the tiers for considering how much you should be able to spend per pupil. And there were 17 or 18 senators representing small school districts that stuck together for I believe it was 21 hours of debate on General File. And as a result, I think, of the the 33-vote threshold, there were some accommodations, there were some changes that were made that wouldn't have had to been made...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SPEAKER BROMM: ...and those.. that interest could have been steamrolled, I think, otherwise. Now, whether it's a social issue or education or a tax policy issue doesn't matter. I