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FLOOR DEBATE

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our rules, under the guidance of our Rules Committee, so that we do no long...we no longer require eight hours of debate and then a vote of 33 votes in order to invoke cloture. We now say that when you have 33 votes you don't need to wait eight hours, and we've not had much experience with that technique. We are a deliberative body, and I suggest that we stay where we are. You'll note that this is not a rule that's brought to us by our Rules Committee after careful consideration. And there's absolutely nothing wrong with Senator Maxwell doing what he's...that's what we're here for, is for each of us to do our best as we see our duty. But I'm going to rely on the fact that our...this was proposed to our Rules Committee, and they did not advance it. Previously, when we proposed some cloture-modifying rules to the Rules Committee, the Rules Committee did advance the proposals. In this instance, the Rules Committee declined to do so. So, as we all do from time to time, Senator Maxwell is on a frolic of his own. We've not yet had much experience with not requiring eight hours before we invoke cloture, and I would urge that we continue then in our present mode. And incidentally, since my time has not yet been called, with all due respect to all involved, we did not have a special session, our last special session, notwithstanding what anybody said on the radio or otherwise, because we were afraid that one person would tie up the regular session forever. That isn't the way we work. Thirty-three votes, and you don't tie up the session forever. May make it a little difficult,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: ...but whatever we've got the will to overcome, we have the will to overcome, if it's appropriate to overcome it. But we had a special session for a lot of reasons that I can't articulate in one minute, but we didn't have a special session for that reason. We had a special session for other reasons. I thought we handled it in a very workmanlike and responsible way. We did that which we had to do, and we did not proceed to do something political that we didn't need to do. And I hope that will continue to be our watchword. Again, I stand in opposition to the motion to amend and the motion to suspend. Thank you.