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FLOOR DEBATE

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the process will go too fast then. But think about this. Think of all the votes that you've cast during your legislative career. I've been here four years. This is the beginning of my fifth. (Laugh) Senator Friend says he's cast two votes. But you think of all those votes that you have cast, and then compare that to the number of cloture votes that you've cast. And to me, I've cast maybe three or four cloture votes, maybe, in four years. So the price of debate is four cloture votes? The price of discussing an issue is that you have to put in a little time on four issues? I don't think that's bad. I'm opposed to this rule change, I'm opposed to the underlying motion, and I urge you to reject it as well.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Smith on the motion to suspend.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. It's interesting debate to listen to. And listening to Senator Brashear's arguments, I must agree with him. But I've arrived at a different conclusion, and that is in support of this proposed rules change. For quite some time, I've wondered why it takes more votes to engage a rule, that being cloture, than it would be to suspend that very rule. Thirty votes to suspend; 33 votes to engage. I don't quite get it, but I'll keep listening. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, are there other lights on?

SENATOR CUDABACK: There are, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Then I think I would waive and let others who haven't spoken speak first.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hartnett, followed by Senators Maxwell, Foley, and Beutler. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, I had checked with the Clerk. When we did this, put in this cloture