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FLOOR DEBATE

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your motion to reconsider.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, let me give my philosophy of legislating. I have to be here during what's called the short session for 60 legislative days. What difference does it make to me how I spend those legislative days or how long each one of them is? That's the amount of time I've agreed to be here. Now these kind of issues I'm going to take a lot of time on, and why should it make you any difference? Because if I can take 30 days on one issue, that's not going to add 30 days to the end and we have to stay 90. We still stay only 60 days. You just don't have to be bothered with as many issues. And Senator Foley and I have made it clear that we want this battle. We don't want it to end and we're not going to allow it to end. Now he can attempt to get cloture, and if he gets 33 votes to shut me up, I'm going to take it very personally and I'm going to spend a lot of time on every bill that comes up. I've made up my mind that...let me say it like this, brothers and sisters, and as I say on my program, friends, enemies, and neutrals. I explain to the people in my district who may listen to me that when I was elected they sent me down here, whether they knew it or not, for the purpose of using my intelligence to study, gain information on the issues; use my best judgment, based on my knowledge of the system, to do what I think is appropriate. And if they don't like the way I do it, they should correct it at election time and put somebody else down here. Some people think I just say that, that I've never really stated that publicly, so I wrote an article. I do a weekly column, too. I'm going to share it with my colleagues. I'm going to leave it in your box, because some people, some senators, throw things away if there are too many words, but staff members sometimes will read and then tell their senator, this is worth you looking at. So I'm going to let it be filtered through the staff first where I state my philosophy. Now, when these types of matters come before the Legislature, I'm prepared to take as much time as is necessary to achieve my goal, and my goal is to stop it, to be frank. I don't care if we don't get to another bill. I don't care if we don't build a budget. I don't care if we derail this talk that the Governor has of being able to fund all these initiatives without raising taxes. All of that can go by