

February 7, 1975

SENATOR SYAS: Well Senator Burbach's probably one of the best friends I have in this Legislature. It kind of bothers me anytime I have to oppose him sincerely. I think on the parliamentary rules I'll have to oppose this. Under parliamentary rules, always, adjournment is in order at any time. Sometimes a person skillfully in this Legislature has made a motion to adjourn in order to stop debate or some other reason. I think it was done the other day on a question we had about a week ago. Not by me, but by others. I think that if I put a motion up there to adjourn at 11:00, and you vote it down, that's one thing, but there are times that I think we should leave this open. Under all parliamentary procedures a motion to adjourn is at any time allowed. It's sometimes used for good cause. I'll admit sometimes it's used for a bad cause. I've never heard of any place that restricts the use of the adjournment process.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wonder would Senator Burbach yield to a question? Senator Burbach, every time we discuss a provision you have a tendency, since you're the Speaker, to say I. So I want you to take yourself out of my question now. I want others to stop looking at these as Burbach rules, but rules that relate to the speaker. If the speaker is granted this authority in the rules, and a speaker decides that he or she is not going to adjourn until 1:30, what could prevent that? If it's a rule that the speaker has the power to adjourn.

SENATOR BURBACH: I presume that if that speaker was so inclined this could be a dangerous tool. I do believe that any vote, or any statement the speaker makes can be overruled by 25 votes of this body. Therefore, the statement of the speaker to make a 1:30 adjournment can still be overruled. This is a part of our rules. I might further say . . .

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you Senator, I have the floor then you can have it cause they're getting restless and I want them to hear me. Members of the Legislature, remember the way I phrased the question was if a speaker decides not to adjourn until 1:30. Now if we're at 1 o'clock and the speaker has not made a motion to adjourn there is nothing to vote down. No other member can move to adjourn because there is no provision in the rules. So 1 o'clock comes and there's no motion to adjourn. 1:30 comes and there's no motion to adjourn. You have nothing to vote down. 2 o'clock comes and the speaker makes no motion to adjourn. You can't adjourn, you can walk out of here if you choose. Don't say that these things cannot happen. We are talking about rules that are binding on the Legislature. These are not Senator Burbach rules. I do not think that the speaker should be sole authority to adjourn. I hope you'll consider the ramifications of these types of rules.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.