

April 9, 1984

previous action. Now that the record is clear, I would like to add my voice to those who are expressing a real concern with the action that might be taken here. I do not want my record to show that I would vote for something that has not had a public hearing, which has not had some debate, which has not followed our own rules. The hour is late but we need to be voting on this issue, and as you cast your vote, remember that many, many citizens of our state are watching us this night and the future of our state depends on our taking as reasonable and honest and law-worthy responsibility as we possibly know how.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Speak to the motion to overrule the Chair.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Well, Senator Pappas was ahead there. Did you want to speak to the motion to overrule the Chair? The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland, did you wish to close?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes, let me just make a couple of brief comments in closing in urging that the Chair be overruled and yield the rest of my time to Senator Johnson. What we are seeing here is a very fundamental question of legislative process and I recognize a lot of us are under a lot of pressure to legislate in this particular issue but I think it would be a terrible mistake to do so in this fashion. I think it will be something that we will regret for the rest of the year if we do. We simply cannot allow ourselves to make laws this way and Senator Beutler has indicated that it has been the custom of this Legislature for several years now to treat legislative resolutions that would propose a constitutional amendment as bills. Indeed it has been. Indeed it is part of our rules that we will do