

January 11, 1995

Committee brought is aimed at the situation that arose last session. So there has been a problem with this rule. There will continue to be a problem with it because the goal is to stop one person. If you're going to have cloture do it in the way that Senator Bernard-Stevens mentioned, strike out all that other intervening language that Senator Beutler called your attention to and if cloture is voted, then move the bill in the form that it is in when the cloture vote is taken. Otherwise cloture becomes a stratagem by which you can add all kinds of amendments without there being any debate or discussion. And let's say that a person is interested in this bill moving, but doesn't like all these tag ons. He or she knows that in order to get to the vote to move the bill you've got to just about accept all these tack ons too. So all of those things are added. Then the bill moves and maybe it's a strong special interest group that wants that bill moved. They've got their bill moved but a lot of things have been added to it that make it into something that is not wise legislation. Last session I was the person who led what some people called the filibuster which was necessary to allow competing interests to get together and work out what we have come to call the grand compromise. Had I not offered amendment after amendment which we all knew were solely for the purpose of taking up time so that other senators off the floor could work to this compromise, that compromise never would have been reached because votes would have had to be taken on that bill. People who had condemned and excoriated me for engaging in extended debate not only were pleased that I have the stamina to do it, but along the way participated in order to get the legislative process from point a to point b which might be to get wise, just legislation enacted. It is not going to be a smooth, unflinching activity. There will be starts, stops, spurts forward, lurchings backward, one step to the left, two to the right and it might look like a square dance sometimes, a polka the other times, the two-step and anybody from the outside would have no concept or understanding of what is going on because it looks like total confusion. But for those who have to make the process work, there is an internal logic...

SENATOR LINDSAY PRESIDING

SENATOR LINDSAY: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...in the apparent incoherence. So when these types of rules are hastily enacted with the goal of