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There are nine members on the Budget Committee. A majority, I understand of that nine, is required to put an amendment on the appropriations bill. So a majority of nine would be five, a majority out of that nine. I don't feel that five people sitting in another room than this chamber should have more authority and power because they're dealing with money than five people on this floor. So whereas we're talking about fiscal responsibility and sheer numbers in determining how much money is spent, I don't see that five people in a committee room should have more votes than five people on this floor. If it takes only five votes to spend a million dollars in committee, it shouldn't take any more than five votes to undo it should fewer than five vote the other way. So I'm not in favor of allowing one vote in a committee to have the force of five votes on the floor of the Legislature. If we're going to conform to what Senator Syas always talks about the one person, the one rule vote, it means that wherever that vote is being taken, it has no more value. If we're going to do things like this and I'm being facetious but I'm trying to make a point, sometimes the pages ought to be allowed to vote if an issue involves younger people because they have more direct contact with the younger people than some of us in the Body have. There may be issues related to the press industry where the reporters ought to be allowed to vote. The only point I'm trying to get across is this. When we're elected to the Legislature, we are elected on a basis of equality. Each person represents as much of the state as anybody else. Each person's vote is to have as much value, no more and no less, than anybody's else. When we go into a committee, this does not cloak us with additional authority to that we have on the floor of this Body. I do not think a Constitutional Amendment would stand which tried formally and systematically to say at certain times, a vote of one member is worth five votes of other members. For this reason, I'm opposed to this rule change. Everybody in this Body presumably can think. Everybody should have enough ego and self-respect to feel that his or her judgment is as valid as anybody else's on an issue about which he or she has informed himself or herself. So I think if it takes only five votes to do something to a bill in committee, it should not take more than that on the floor provided a greater number do not vote to oppose it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, we're back to the original rule change. That's the point being discussed.

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Body. I'd like to touch briefly a little bit upon the Budget Committee for which I make no apologies and I resent the implication it's a can of worms. I think it's a hard working committee and I think it's one of the hardest working committees in this Body if not the hardest working. Senator Carpenter said we can't get together. We just had a hell of a lot of work to do and we needed more time and we took the time and this is the way the bill comes out in its best form. Not a perfect form but you don't shoot things out without even reading it. That's why I asked to have the bill held up until I could actually look at what I was voting on. Is there something wrong with this? And even that does not make it perfect but we at least try to review these things. I don't think we're perfect in Budget Committee. We at least try to go over these things with our staff and I think there is a difference in that approach than one person standing up on the