

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I will be very brief. I have been here on occasion when on Final Reading the Clerk would be in the process of reading a bill and a senator would catch a typographical error or an incorrect date and it would not be a controversial point but there would be the opportunity to correct it before the bill was sent on over to the Governor. Perhaps he would sign it. Then we would find we have a provision in the bill which would make it inoperable or operate in a fashion that was not desired and on occasion it has been necessary to enact an additional bill the same session to correct an oversight that had occurred in a previous bill. Now being realistic, I think everybody in here would have to admit that if Final Reading were dispensed with that would not result in additional time for debate of consideration on General File or Select File. When we get to the time for the final vote a lot of us will then really look at the bill because this is the final form that it is going to be in. We are not voting on something that may be amended tomorrow or the next day. One other consideration, by a vote of the body, a rule can be suspended. Such is not the case with the Constitution and I have been on the losing end of some of those votes where people would get tired or the lobbyist would be particularly strong and they would vote to suspend the rules so there could be no more debate, no more addition of amendments or consideration of amendments and just take a vote right now and bills would steam-roll right through. Now there could be a situation where a bill would be wanted by a strong lobbying force. They could be aware of the fact that there was a desire to add amendments or consider the bill further and they could easily get enough votes whipped into line to suspend the rules so that the allowance of senators to request a Final Reading would be done away with. So a rule does not insure that the body would have the right to have Final Reading or one senator would have that right should it be desired. I am opposed to the bill. I think it is a strategem to try to get it onto the ballot by adding the rule provision. Remember, a vote of the Legislature can suspend a rule but it cannot suspend the Constitution. If the principle of Final Reading is of value it ought to be imbedded in the Constitution like other essentials of the legislative process.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I would like to ask questions of the presiding officer, the Clerk and also Speaker Marvel if he is around, especially those of you who have been here a long time. Senator Marvel, have we always