

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, as God is my witness, as God is my witness, I want to tell you that I am scared of where we are and it has developed over the last three or four years. I have watched it. The technique of simply putting amendments up to stop progress or discussion or debate or to stop the issue. Now I think the rules have to be clarified or changed but I am hearing things among angry senators here that, well, by God, if he can do that I am going to put a hundred amendments up there and somebody else is saying I am going to put fifty amendments up on this bill and that. That will destroy this Legislature. That will destroy our ability to finish up this session and to process things intelligently. The amendment process is a sacred process because it changes the direction or the nature of a bill. It makes a law change. It should not be used frivolously. I am offering this as a technique within the rules because I cannot, nobody in this room can even reach the position to make a suspension of the rules because of the way they are structured. We are the only place I have been able to find, and I was chairman of Rules for four years here, we are the only place that has this distortion that has allowed ourselves to get into this position. Now Senator Beutler and I have disagreed on principles of rules about as much as anybody. He doesn't like to suspend them. He is the only purist, the absolute purist, in this room. I don't know whether he supports what I am doing. I don't know whether he opposes it but I am going to ask him to take one or two minutes of the time I have left on closing to give any philosophical ideas he has as to the nature of this problem and we'd better do something and I am offering you at this moment the only way out of a morass and dilemma. Senator Reutzel thinks it is unreasonable. I am saying, Senator Reutzel, if we don't find some corridor through this craziness of one person or two or five being able to destroy the system by simply putting up amendments, we are all in trouble. So, Senator Beutler, I give you a couple of minutes to say whatever you want philosophically because as I was telling you earlier today, you remind me of kind of a nun in a ... well anyway in an interesting house who is telling everybody they are being bad and they say, yes, and we enjoy it, but anyway, I think you will tell us, philosophically you are a purist on rules, what the problem is and what you perceive should be done. Senator Kelly, you asked for a minute. You've got one.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am as much a part of this dilemma as everybody else.