

have never stood on this floor and, under the pretext of saying something is not germane, attempted to defeat something that I was opposed to.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) Could we please hold the conversation down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The issue is one of how we are going to legislate. Before we even get to whether we like the amendment or not, we should consider the process by which we are going to get to a consideration of that amendment. I think the Chair's ruling was incorrect. I think a vote is in order and I hope that you will vote to overrule the Chair. Before we go further I would like to find out from the Chair how many votes will be necessary for this to successfully be done.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Just a moment, we'll find out. There is only one excused, so I understand it will take 25.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get some clarification before we proceed so that it won't become a separate issue later. If a call of the house is had, will the total number considered here be the total number of those who check in?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, I understand the rule, it says those present, a simple majority. Now if we have a call of the house, it is up to you to say if any one of those who are not excused, which is only one, if any more of those do not show up, it is up to you to say whether you want to wait until they get here, or if you authorize us to proceed. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But by present, just so I understand, it means anybody who is not excused is deemed present.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That is correct. Now if they don't show, then it is up to you to excuse them as far as your vote is concerned. Got me?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You mean I can declare them absent? Oh, thank you, I like that.

SPEAKER NICHOL: That's right. We don't always allow that privilege, Senator Chambers.