

January 8, 1986

structure to pass anything. The motion is to cease...to call the question. Shall the debate cease? Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The debate is closed and, Senator Chambers, you may close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I will be very brief because I don't want to confuse anybody by trying to clarify, but Senator Morehead brought something to my attention that I think I should point out. The approach taken by the Rules Committee and the approach that I am taking would represent two different philosophies, each one is aimed at arriving at a consistency but the Rules Committee chose to try to arrive at consistency by making the resolution be treated as a bill and require 30 votes to be revived just as a bill would. I am saying, on the other hand, that since it is in fact a resolution the consistency should be brought about by treating it as every other resolution is treated when it is sent to a committee, is killed by a committee, and there is an attempt to revive it. It takes 25, right. So I don't see why any committee should be slighted. If you are going to say that what the committee does is important, and that they have given due deliberation, why is it that if a resolution is referred to the Judiciary Committee, God help whoever's resolution it is, if it has merit and it be referred to that committee and is killed after what is called due deliberation, it only takes 25 votes to correct what the...maybe it should, anyway, it takes only 25 votes to correct what the Judiciary Committee did but it is going to take 30 to correct or change what the Constitutional Revision Committee has done. So rather than get into an argument as to which committee in fact has more merit than the other, deal with the item the same regardless of which committee it goes to. Any resolution aimed at amending the Constitution goes to the Constitutional Revision Committee, and sometimes they obtain the recreation by killing it. Those who feel that it should be revived would have to get 30 votes but any other resolution that went to any other committee and was killed would only require 25 votes to be revived. And there are some serious matters that are dealt with by way of resolution even though they are not proposed amendments to the Constitution. One such is retrocession.