

January 10, 1986

page 213 you see one possible clarification proposed by me. You see a second possible clarification proposed by Senator Morehead. My clarification says, yes, the body can, by extraordinary vote, by a majority of all members present, not just a majority of those who choose to push their button but by a majority of all those present, we can summon those members to the body. The theory behind that is that there are most of the time, 90, 95, 99 percent of the time we operate based on our own conscience and in answer to our constituents at home. But there are those times, those extraordinary times, usually toward the end of the session when doing the public's work down here in the Legislature, being here, being counted on, those major issues in front of the state that deal with the future of our state are so important that we should be here and that the body should have that power, although it should not be used very often, to summon those members. That is what I am proposing by my rules change to allow that for these extraordinary circumstances, basically to preserve the status quo of the rules as I understood them before. Now what Senator Morehead is going to do in a few minutes, she is going to argue the other side, that we are free to do basically as we please. We should be held accountable by our constituents but we in the body should not have this power to hold other members accountable for their attendance. She has a rule change that begins at the bottom of page 213 and then goes on to page 214. I feel very strongly that my change is the preferable one. I feel secondarily, though, that this needs to be clarified so much that I'm going to do something somewhat unique I guess, and that is I'm going to urge you to vote either for my proposal or for Senator Morehead's. I think mine is the preferable of the two but I think this needs to be clarified. So I'd like to ask you to kind of choose up sides now I guess and support either my proposal, or if you choose not to support my proposal, I think it is important that the second proposal does get adopted. But with that what we are debating right now is my proposal, and that is to clarify that the Legislature does have the authority, under extraordinary circumstances, to summon members who are absent even though they have been excused. With that I will close.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, it seems as though I am, basically, the only one that stands up