

January 10, 1986

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, you're next on the speaking order.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, a question of Senator Chambers, please. Senator Chambers...

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) There is a lot of roar coming up to me here and I think this must distract the speakers. Go ahead, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Chambers, could you foresee or would you care to comment on the possibility of some member on the floor of abusing the privilege and being a little dictator so to speak and set his feet in the ground and turn his lips down and say, they're all going to be here, period? Do you think that this would be abused? This is what you're in essence saying that one person can do that to the body. Right?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In the same way that one person can ask for a call of the house or any of the number of other items, there is always a potential for a person to use a rule in a way that other people at that point would see it as an abuse. For example, when I offer a host of amendments on a bill, if the majority is not interested, then mine seems to be an abuse of the rules, but if a lot of other people feel a certain way about a bill and they offer a lot of amendments, theirs is not seen as an abuse. But here is the way all of this can be handled, Senator Haberman. The house once placed under call can be taken out from under a call by a vote of the majority. It can be raised at any time. So let's say a majority of the people who want the house under call constitutes 25 or more votes. They've got the people here they need. Then there is no need to continue holding the house under call because they will get what they want and the call can be lifted and there is no need to compel people to come. On the other hand, if there is one member, take myself for an example, who wants others here to vote and who would say I want those other people brought in, so I want them...I want action initiated to bring them here. Well, if the majority have their votes, all they have to do is say they want the call raised. Then those people will not have to be brought in and they've still got enough people to vote however they want them to vote.