

January 16, 1986

opposed vote nay. Record the vote, Mr. Clerk. Excuse me, I'm sorry. Please record your vote, aye or nay. The question is, shall the debate cease? Please record your vote. Shall the debate cease, vote aye or nay? May we have the attention of the members, please. Please record your vote. The question is, shall the debate cease? There are a number of...a great number of people that have had their lights on to speak, so I may assume that you do not wish debate to cease unless the vote shall come forth...come through rather quickly. Do you wish to cease debate? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 17 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to talk about a praiseworthy reform. Barring an always possible reversal in judgement, the 1986 Legislature, Monday, nailed down its first major accomplishment. Few outside the statehouse may appreciate the worth of the 25 to 19 decision, revamping the Unicameral Standing Committee structure, effective a year from now. The result should be a better balance of work load for the 13 mainline committees and, therefore, for individual committee members. That would mean a fairer flow from the committee to the floor rather than proportionately more bills in certain important committees getting trapped in end of session traffic jams. Praiseworthy, as well, in the committee reform, is the tentative reshuffle of subject matter jurisdiction so that wholly incompatible areas are not fused principally to reflect perverse, personal special interests of senators past and present. The Journal had previously applauded the proposal from the Executive Board creating Transportation and Natural Resources Committees and ending the Constitutional Revision and Recreation. Moving about one-fourth of the Judiciary Committee's work load to the Government Committee also is sensible. Senator Patricia Morehead and Senator Chris Beutler led the way, bringing the constructive, although nonetheless surprising, reform. They had a tough go and they certainly have, with some of the rest of us, been treading on sacred turf. What helped them was individual senatorial experiences, plus good supporting staff research. That a legislative majority could agree to