

person is a motion to suspend the rules. The Speaker has indicated that a motion to suspend the rules can be amended. That is the first time in my seven years in the Legislature I've ever seen that allowed. The reason that it has never been allowed is because it defies common sense. In a legislative body, where your only technique for closing off debate is a motion to suspend the rules, to allow a motion to amend the motion to suspend the rules effectively eliminates your only technique for limiting debate. That would mean that anytime in the future, in this session, on a hot issue, regardless of what it was, anytime that somebody who was in a minority wanted to filibuster it to death, all they do is start filing amendments to the motion to suspend. That is the practical point. In a legal sense, I think it has been true before today that in any situation where our rules did not speak to a situation, that the reference in this body has been to Mason's Rule of Order. I would ask the Clerk, if it is not putting the Clerk on the spot, if that has not been the procedure in the Legislature.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Clerk.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Since that has not always been what occurred, I object to a staff member being injected into this discussion which should occur among senators because Mason's has not always been the only thing referred to. We've come up there and gotten our heads together, and whoever had the strongest argument was the one who won.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I'll ask the Clerk to respond.

CLERK: Senator, I...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, Mr. Clerk, I don't want to put you in the spot with Senator Chambers. I will simply state, as a matter of fact, that it is my opinion that Mason's Rules of Order has been the common reference point that we use to address situations where the rules of the Legislature are silent. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers. Then Senator DeCamp.