

January 14, 1991

votes that that would be the end of it. I am not sure that even before eight hours are up that minority opinions and, indeed, every member could express their opinion, if they so desired, in that amount of time. It will not stifle debate or exchange of opinions. As a matter of fact, as I think back on my years, this actually will open the process to more full-blown debate, to more significant debate. Think of this, last year, for instance, the filibusterers would line up, push their lights on, and would go on and on and on, and actually, as I pointed out, not always be on point but be filling their time. The proponents of the issue would not put on their lights, would not debate, hoping that they could wear the body down, so that side of the debate wouldn't even be expressed. It would simply be the filibuster side, usually the opponents, who not only their side or their opinions would be expressed, but they would be the only ones that would be expressed because the other side is so careful not to press their light, not to take time because of the time passing in filibuster. So I think it will open debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And, you know, the Unicameral is unique, and just simply because we don't have another house, I think actually that is better. In talking with other legislators, they can do frivolous things, they can be irresponsible because they know there is another house. Well, we can't do that. Not only are we the only one for our constituents but we have to be responsible because our votes, our debate is open at every level. So in that theory, we don't have another house to fix our mistakes that we can pass the buck on. It is us and we have to be responsive and responsible to our constituents.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And this cloture rule I think is both responsible and responsive to the needs of this body. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Now, Senator Withem, followed by Senator Wesely, Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Labeledz. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I am speaking in opposition to the Chambers amendment and in support of the motion. I think the whole question of open and