

January 6, 1988

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Withem, whether you can answer this or not then you may refer it to Senator Moore, I need a definition of what debate is? Does that include the time that the Chair will use in a germaneness ruling? Just exactly what is included in debate?

SENATOR WITHEM: My intent, it is not my motion, but my understanding of the time limit would be from when the Clerk or the Speaker says next bill up for consideration is Senator Haberman's LB 222 and the clock starts then and then we take the final motion to advance LB 222 to the next stage of consideration, the clock stops, and anything that intervenes, germaneness motions, any of those kind of things are part of the eight hours of consideration. That is my intent but you maybe should ask Senator Moore because it is his rule change.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, I want to bring it up now because it has a direct bearing on whether we vote for your amendment or not. You're going to get some argument on what is debate. If the Chair is ruling on a germaneness call or a point of information or anything else, that is not debate. Debate is what we're doing now when a senator gets up and talks for or against an amendment. So, you're going to have nothing but problems whether we go with Senator Withem's amendment or not, so I would ask the body to defeat Senator Withem's amendment and then we'll take up the other one when it comes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, did you wish to speak about the Withem amendment?

SENATOR LYNCH: This does pertain to Senator Withem's suggestion. Senator Withem, could I ask you a question? I was just going to...I wondered if you should add that same, at one stage of consideration also after the word "debate" in line one, two, three, four, five, six as well, which would read except that appropriations bills introduced by Appropriations Committee shall be subject to a cloture motion only after 12 hours of debate in one stage of the consideration.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, we probably should, Senator Lynch, you're right.

PRESIDENT: Were you through, Senator Lynch? Okay. Were you through, Senator Withem?