

January 4, 1990

SENATOR McFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President. I am on the Rules Committee. We discussed this yesterday and I voted no on this proposal. Let me assure Senator Chambers, this proposal wasn't directed at him in any way and this has a superficial appeal to it. I think the argument that was made in our Rules Committee hearing was that one instance there was a bill that passed with 30 votes on an override. A reconsideration motion was made and the reconsideration motion was successful because the next time the vote was taken on the override of the veto, the override did not get the necessary 30 votes. The argument was that it's unfair to require a person supporting a particular override to have to get 30 votes not only the first time but the second time as well. At that time, in our committee hearing I had to admit that that particular example made a lot of sense to me, particularly since I was one of the ones voting for the override on both occasions and it was an important bill that I thought needed to be passed and that the veto needed to be overridden. But I am reluctant and I do not support this particular proposed rule change for some of the reasons Senator Chambers enunciated and for my own reason...my own basic reason is that the theory of a motion to reconsider is that you have voted without thoroughly addressing all of the issues and really thinking about the implications. The idea is that maybe 30 senators voted to override and need to reconsider the matter because additional information needs to be presented or perhaps some other points need to be addressed or the implications haven't fully been explained. That seems entirely appropriate to me. I know that there are sometimes concerns about, well, a motion to reconsider is made and then there is some vote trading and some deals get made and that's very distressful. But I don't think we legislate or we structure our rules to take care of some of the problems that sometimes go on in here as far as deals and vote trading. We've got to address those directly and we, as a body, should address those ourselves. The purpose of the motion to reconsider is to get people to look at it differently. I think 25 votes are sufficient for that purpose. If, in fact, a bill has received 30 votes on an override or 30 votes on another situation, if it is a meritorious proposition, it will get the 30 votes the second time as well. And so, for that reason, I would urge you to vote against this change in the rule proposals. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, please, followed by Senator Withem, Senator Haberman, Senator Bernard-Stevens.