

January 4, 1990

25 votes that is back before us the next year because we didn't consider it thoroughly enough when we passed it. And I think the motion to reconsider is an appropriate mechanism to limit the times when we pass unwise legislation and if a particular senator or group of senators think that a particular bill has been passed or has been overridden, or a veto has been overridden that's inappropriate, then I think the motion to reconsider is appropriate. I don't think we should require a supermajority on that. A supermajority, even if you get 30 votes the first time, that doesn't mean the supermajority is always right. And I think the mechanisms should be there for 25 votes to allow reconsideration regardless of the times that maybe we get upset when we get 30 votes to pass...to override a veto and then don't get the 30 votes the next time. It's just a thing that we need to have available and I don't think we should be requiring 30 votes just in order...just to reconsider our previous vote. If the bill has merit or if the override has merit, you should be able to get the 30 votes the second time as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: I thought...I just wanted to continue on the dialogue that Senator Chambers and I had had and the points I was making in that and I guess I thought we were in agreement here a second ago and it appears as though we still may have disagreement. So I guess I just wanted to, (a), again say I think that this is a good rule change for the purposes we made before. Number two, my interpretation, and I hate getting the Clerk involved in these but over the years I have interpreted the ruling to come from the Chair that when you take an initial action that that action stands unless you reconsider it. And if you reconsider, if you pass a motion to reconsider, that motion in effect negates the action that was taken before and if you, as the original sponsor of that motion, still believe that you want to see that motion passed, you have the affirmative responsibility of getting whatever number of votes it was to re...to do that action again. So if you reconsider, you're back in history as if the original motion had not passed and if the only thing that happens is the reconsideration to advance a bill, to pass a bill, to suspend a rule, if you vote to reconsider, then you're back in history as if that action had not happened and if the only thing that passes is the reconsideration that the original action is being reconsidered is negated. That has been my interpretation of the rule that