

January 4, 1990

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lynch, followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, to clarify some of what Ernie said, I agree with, some I don't. The impression, Senator Chambers, was left that if, in fact, you had 25 divisions in your motion and you acted on 20 of them, you just simply withdraw the whole package of 25 and we can't do that under the rules. That's not what you meant, I see, because those that you already acted upon cannot be withdrawn, there is no need to, they're already dead. So what we're talking about here is after a question has been divided, what kind of action can proceed. Because there was some concern about the interpretation of the rule in the past, because it did, I think, put the Chair in a terrible position and, in fact, we ruled both ways during the session and rightfully so because of the absence of a true definition of what the procedure should be, this particular rule change was recommended. However, we all know, as a practical fact of life, that if, in fact, someone should want to challenge the recommendation of the Chair without any rule change, that the rest of the divided question, in fact, can be withdrawn, we're going to have a vote anyhow to see whether or not we overrule the Chair's decision. So if we're going to have a change at this point in time, even though I think it might be more cumbersome, in fact, force a vote when we may not need it, I would support the amendment recommended by Senator Stevens and that would simply be that when a person who asks for a question to be divided into, say, three parts after the activity on the first part of the divided question, he could, in fact, move to withdraw the other two and, at that point in time then, it's my understanding with your amendment, Senator Stevens, there would be a vote of the body giving you permission to withdraw. Is that right?

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, you're being asked a question.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I'm sorry, would you repeat the question, please.

SENATOR LYNCH: Oh, just say yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, no.