

November 17, 1989

behalf or in opposition to the committee report, but, basically, to give some comments on how the process of confirmation has changed and some of his thoughts on the matter. So I'd give the remainder of my closing time to the Speaker.

PRESIDENT: You have four minutes, Senator Barrett.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, I won't take that much time. I do want to suggest, as Senator Withem has just reported to you, that my office has done a lot of work in this area. Senator Withem has been very conscious of our system, as my office has been for the past couple of years. The confirmation process has been unwieldily. We have looked at it, we have studied it. I am concerned about it, I continue to be concerned about it. And Senator Chambers' remarks today perhaps are on target. No one is more interested in improving the system than I, and there are others of you who have expressed a similar interest, and for that I'm grateful. It's important, it's important that our system work and work well. The options that Senator Withem has shared with you, I think, are very accurate. And I further believe that the final option that he has shared with you, and that is to defer this action until the next session, 60 days or less away, is probably the way we should go, with the understanding that we continue to look at this and perhaps smooth and refine again next year. I have no particular problem with the action which is being suggested by Senator Withem, but also recognizing that this is a very awkward situation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the closing. The question is the confirmation report acceptance. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the motion as offered by Senator Withem, Chair of the Education Committee.

PRESIDENT: The motion is accepted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit, as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, would offer a motion with respect to appointees still pending before his committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.