

January 14, 1991

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: They would be able to do so as well.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Why, I'm just kind of curious, why would, why would we want to give priority to a committee... Standing Committee offering an amendment on appropriations on a department or agency that they have not taken the time to even review with that agency or department the procedure, and yet we give it priority. It would seem to me if you had not held a hearing, if you had not met with the agency, then if you cared to make an amendment it would be just as any other amendment, it should appear just in a priority as everyone else. I'd just kind of like... I yield the rest of my time to let you respond to my concern on that.

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, I think what it has to do with is identifying the integrity of a committee responsibility. I would not want to even presume how politically a chairman, a chairperson or even a committee should deal with the agency they are concerned with. However, if in their opinion they think the best way to recommend to the body a concern about the budget of that committee, it probably would be in good taste, it might even be appropriate for them to talk to that agency. But, on the other hand, maybe they had in the past, maybe down for years they have tried to discuss this particular amendment, hypothetical as it might be, and they thought this would be the best way to handle it. Rather than, rather than to preempt an important committee priority, by saying you can't do this unless you talk to the agency first, I think would be not only different from what we usually do around here, a lot of us offer recommendations regarding agencies. And I'm not sure if all of us talk to the department first either. So, if we did that, with this particular rule change, and suggested the committee must, in fact, talk to the agency first, I guess we would presume that individuals who do the same thing should also talk to the agency first. So, I think where it doesn't necessarily and shouldn't apply in the case of an individual amendment, it shouldn't apply in the case of a committee.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there any other discussion? Mr. Clerk, I understand you have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the Rules Committee amendment number three.