

February 20, 1991

me. And I don't think this body ignoring election laws is the type of precedent that we want to set. I will support the Chair's decision. Notwithstanding all the other extraneous issues, I think the decision was proper, I think there is precedent for it. While there is no rule directly on point, I think we can go with what we have done in the past, and that is to allow this election contest to be withdrawn.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. We'll now go to Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, very reluctantly, I rise to ask that the Chair be sustained. I know it's against my normal system of operation to support the Chair, but I will do so in this particular case. I think the Chair probably has ruled properly. I think one of the mistakes that people are making to say that the Chair should be overruled is that you're applying the rules of our Legislature to this particular matter. Every rule in our Legislature involving withdrawal of bills, or not withdrawing bills involves a matter that is initiated, at least in a formal sense, I understand Senator Hall's reference to lobbyists and outside people actually bringing ideas to us, but in a formal sense everything else that is proposed to this Legislature is brought to us by a member through a signature. This is one...the only case I can think of where there has not been a formal proponent or opponent for a given measure in the Legislature itself. This is one brought to us by an outside party, Mr. Korslund brought this to us. He is the contestant. Without a contestant, and we no longer have a contestant if we believe that the letter read to us was authentic, and we have absolutely no reason to question whether it is, we no longer have a contestant, so how can we have a contest before us. I suppose it might be possible for a member of the body to take up the contest, and then we would...they'd probably have to file a new procedure, if they feel there is reason for contesting the measure. But we do not have a contest at this point. I have a lot of frustration with the letter from Mr. Korslund. And I mean no disrespect to him, because I know both he and Senator Byars have been through agony over these last several weeks on this matter. I went through a recount in my election, so I have a feeling for what they've gone through. But I think...I did not cast my vote yesterday, or take any actions, or spend the weekend finding ways in which I could support Paul Korslund over Dennis Byars, or support Dennis Byars over Paul Korslund. I wrestled with this because