

November 10, 1992 LB 1

would like to use the rest of my time, I will it to him.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, do you wish to take the remainder of the time?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, as tempted as I am, I think...may I ask the Clerk a question, and this is just for clarification. Mr. Clerk, has there ever been a ruling, I know we are to speak once on an overrule motion, has there ever been a ruling that a member cannot take another member's...the remainder of a member's time? If you recall, I just don't.

CLERK: I don't believe so, Senator, at least not in this context.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then since the Chair recognized me, I am going to go ahead and take the time. I am trying to do it the way we had done, if we had done it differently. Members of the Legislature, I want to say, again, that now I am not arguing on the bill. I am not arguing the merits or demerits of the motion...I mean of what the motion is trying to do to the bill. I am talking about our rules. Sometimes things like this have happened in the past, and there have been attempts to do by a 25 vote margin of sustaining the Chair or overruling the Chair, whichever way the issue needed to be decided, to solve or settle an issue that ordinarily would require 30 votes. And it is a stratagem that has been used by others. I have never tried to use that on the floor. Despite the fact that I try to understand what the rules are and operate within what the rules say, I have never deliberately tried to say that the rules mean something other than what they appear to mean. It should be clear from what Senator Landis said, and he made references to the rule book, that this bill is not on Final Reading. If the bill were on Final Reading as soon as it leaves Select File, we would start counting the days as soon as we make the vote. Like if we vote to advance this bill from Select File, then we start counting the time that it is on Final Reading from tomorrow, not from the day that it comes back from E & R in proper shape, but it can't be on Final Reading because it is not in the form that it needs to be for passage. A bill is not on Final Reading until it is in the form that we, under the Constitution and laws, can vote on it. We cannot vote on this bill on Final Reading. It is not on Final Reading. The point that I am making now is to reemphasize and underline what Senator Wesely was saying to Senator Bernard-Stevens. I did not say that we