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the Chair as to what the rules mean. And to have that individual's input, and also to have that individual present as rule changes are being discussed is, I think, a valuable thing. The way the rule change is currently drafted the Rules Committee would simply be expanded to six members and the Speaker would automatically serve as one of the members. I do understand, I believe, that there is an amendment coming up that would make the Speaker an ex officio member of the Rules Committee, which I would support. With that, I would ask your support for this change of the rules.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Withem. Senator Withem, you have an amendment? Excuse me. There's an amendment to the bill. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the proposed rule change.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. This amendment simply would change the rule that you have in front of you that would maintain the number at five. It would maintain the number at five and simply add the Speaker as an ex officio member of the Rules Committee. I think that would be a more proper way of handling it. I think it puts the Speaker in a better position. I think the Speaker needs to be a part of the rules process. An ex officio member would be, I think, a much better concept, and if people want to get into it further, we certainly can. I suspect there is support for the amendment and I urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Withem, do you wish to speak to the amendment?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, Madam President, members of the body. I would urge support of the Bernard-Stevens amendment and the underlying rule change. I believe the...this is not one of those terrible power grab sort of things. Being a member of the Rules Committee is not, sorry, Senator Will, it is not that great a power play here. But the Speaker does, during the course of the legislative session, interface with rules interpretations probably more than any other member of the body. And I think, regardless of who the Speaker is, having the Speaker involved in rule discussions is a good idea. The