

January 11, 1995

SENATOR WILL: Yes, Senator Withem. I have made a practice of holding hearings on rules changes that have been proposed during my time as Rules Committee Chair, although there is nothing in the rules currently that would require that.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay.

SENATOR WILL: And I certainly would...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay.

SENATOR WILL: ...would have that be my intent.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay. I do have some questions about this. So, first of all, this only applies to rules changes to be considered at the start of a regular session? For instance, I can recall, and I probably, as I engage in this debate today I'll be referring back to a number of examples. But I can recall, two or three years ago, on almost the last day of the session we proposed a change to the rules affecting the manner in which the Appropriations Committee was to be selected. That was done late in the session. I think the Rules Committee did, in fact, have a hearing on it, submitted to the floor. But we're not really talking about those sorts of changes. Those require 30 votes, these changes really right now require only 25 votes. Is that a correct interpretation, that the membership, if midway through the session we found a rule that we thought just dramatically had to be changed, we have the Speaker who's causing all kinds of problems on the Rules Committee and we want to kick him off again, we'd be able to do that, but that would take a 30 vote majority at the end of the session, is that correct?

SENATOR WILL: That would be my interpretation, Senator Withem. The main thrust of this rule change would be to refer to rules that are to be considered at the beginning of the legislation session.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay.

SENATOR WILL: But there is nothing in this rule change that would preclude the Rules Committee and the Legislature from acting to change the rules during a session.

SPEAKER WITHEM. Now, what happens if, at the beginning of the