

January 11, 1995

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, Senator Withem touched on some of the substantive questions that I would raise, but this is what I would call a peewee amendment. In the fourth line after, "Rules Committee", the two words, "at least", would be inserted so it's clear that if you want to propose one of these rules, however we come up with the final form of the amendment, it doesn't have to be precisely on the seventh day preceding the start. So it means that at least seven days prior, and that's all that this amendment does, it inserts the two words "at least". And then I would want to look at more substantive aspects of the amendment along the lines that Senator Withem was exploring.

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

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, I have no problems with Senator Chambers' amendment. And I just, being on the Rules Committee I just wanted to give what I thought was my understanding of this particular rule change, and that is as follows. First of all, this rule change does not preclude any member of the Legislature from independently offering a rule change at the beginning of a session. And I think that in order to make that absolutely clear, when we adopt our temporary rules, which are the rules that we're under right now, we ought to do that omitting this particular rule, so that at the beginning of every two-year session everybody has the right to submit any rule change they want, whether or not they've gone through the Rules Committee, because we have no permanent rules at that point. However, having said that, for each little piddling matter that we deal with in this Legislature we require a public hearing, we require a long process, we require a deliberative process. And I think that with regard to a lot of the rule changes we make, we owe ourselves that same deliberative process. And this rule change was designed to encourage people to go through the same kind of process that we go through with bills in order that we get the maximum input and we have the kinds of discussions that lead us to the better rules. So that really is the sum and substance of this amendment, to encourage people to go through the process, but not to require them to go through the process. And that's the way I interpret this rule, and I think that's the way the Rules Committee generally thought of this rule.