

January 11, 1995

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Pirsch, do you wish to speak to the Will amendment?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. Part of my problem with this rule change was that we eliminated completely the original Rule (f), which essentially dealt with the rule changing during legislative days. It talked about a rule change shall be set for public hearing within five legislative days. The hearing shall take place within 15 legislative days, and the committee shall take final action within 10 legislative days. I, quite frankly, don't want to strike that. That gives some kind of definite limitations that the Rules Committee should follow while we are involved in the legislative process. I can understand that we need additional perhaps rule that would talk about what happens before the legislative session. And I think, Senator Will, if you would like to respond to that, was that the original reason to bring this rule change before us was because you wanted the preliminary rule discussion held before the legislative session began?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Yes, Senator Pirsch, that is the original reason. I think I found it valuable to hold hearings on rules changes to get input from, and typically the public is not real concerned with our rules, but we do get testimony at the legislative hearings from people, from senators and from staff people that are affected by the way that our rules operate. The reason for repealing the current rule is that only very rarely are rules changes brought during the legislative session that require immediate action. Typically there are changes that are in reaction to something that has occurred on the floor, you know,...

SENATOR PIRSCH: Right.

SENATOR WILL: ...an interpretation from the Chair, something like that, that don't have...don't require immediate action. When they do, as the instance that Senator Withem referred to with respect to the makeup of the Appropriations Committee, Rules Committee chairs have been quick to respond and I certainly would be mindful of that as the...as long as I'm the Rules Committee Chair. If there's a need to respond during the session, I would be glad to do it.