

January 11, 1995

on the original amendment. That was to get away from what I just described and I'm afraid that this rule change, if we don't...it needs to be clarified. But I'm afraid this proposed rule change maybe allows us an opportunity to create a situation where we prevent a vote on four-fifths of the committee amendment and I don't think that is our intent. At least that wasn't, I don't think, the discussion...the committee didn't want to do that I don't think, but we wanted to clarify this because the Chair was placed in a touch position last year making a decision on this question. And if I remember right the Chair ruled that we would vote on the entire underlying amendment, not just on the subdivided part and I could be corrected if I'm wrong but I think that is the precedent we have right now and so I'd like to hear some discussion on it. I may propose to change this language...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...before we're completely done discussing it. Thank you, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. We have an amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend the proposal.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Bromm, I don't know if this amendment will help in your argument. I think indirectly it will. The amendment, members of the body, is a simple one and it actually it's more of a philosophic one because the way the rule now is, is if a cloture petition is filed, we go ahead and vote on the pending amendment to the amendment and then the amendment and then the divided question, that portion has been divided that we're on and then we stop and vote cloture and then we go immediately to the bill. To me we do that backwards. Okay? We do that backwards. What this amendment does is put the procedure in, when I look at it philosophically, the proper sequence. The proper sequence in my mind should be, we file the petition for cloture, the debate stops immediately, obviously assuming the person speaking gets to finish, and at that point debate stops immediately and a vote then immediately occurs on