

January 17, 1995

members of the body, Senator Wesely, again I think you gave another argument, a good argument of why this rule of Senator Withem's should be adopted. The one thing that a single Unicameral, a single body form of government that we have in this state, the one thing that we desperately have to have is a process that slows down. You don't want a process that speeds up so fast and there is no other check because there is no other body. There are times in the Legislature we must slow down. Now, to be fair on the discussion that we have on the Withem amendment, I will be supporting the Withem amendment. I think it's a good amendment. I think it's good policy. However, one must understand that whatever we may agree to here is going to have problems in another area. I will give an example. If this amendment is agreed to, and again I will be supporting this amendment, what basically...what basically happens is that we say that on any amendment...and, members of the body, if you remember, we have had amendments towards the end of the session that may have six bills in them because they're not going to get discussed, we're running out of time at the end, so we're having this big amendment, we have...we put in six bills. This amendment that Senator Withem has says that at least if all of the bill...if all of the amendment is considered germane but we know certain portions aren't, maybe one bill is not germane at all, but the rest of the amendment is, we can at least divide it out and that which is not germane will be taken out. That's what will happen if we support this amendment. That's why it's a good amendment. However, members of the body must also understand that when you agree to this proposal, it also means that if I wanted to delay or Senator Dierks wanted to delay, as they did last year, or Senator Chambers wanted to delay, as he did last year, or Senator Will and Hall wanted to delay, as they did last year, or Senator Bromm wants to delay, as he did last year, if, in fact, I want to delay, one of the delaying tools is, in fact, that you can divide all the questions and have debates and amendments on that of which germaneness would be another tool to slow down debate. So what may be logical here will add to those that want to slow things down for what is now called...I call a modified filibuster, there's no such thing as a filibuster, as we all know, in the Legislature because we have cloture. However, if you do not support this rule, and again I say if you do not support the Withem amendment then what you're going to have is long amendments at some point or...that will have little bits and pieces of other bills in them, not germane, but which on their own would not pass and you would have to vote against the entire bill in order to stop that section that's not