

January 17, 1995

Legislature, I can only think of one instance where this question arose and it was during the last session of the Legislature where Senator Beutler had offered an amendment with which Senator Moore disagreed. The amendment, as a whole, was ruled germane. Senator Moore then moved to divide the question so that individual portions of that amendment could be ruled not germane and I think he succeeded in dismantling the entire amendment or most of it by having individual components of the amendment ruled not germane after the amendment, as a whole, had been considered germane. A question that I think we should be thinking about is how many times will an issue such as this arise, practically speaking? Any rule that we have is amenable to use to delay the process if a person wants to do that. So I don't think there's a way to draft any rule so that it cannot be used for purposes of delay, even the kind of delay that some people would consider unjustified or dilatory. If we could separate ourselves from that question and look at what Senator Withem's amendment is attempting to do, then it might be easier to arrive at what would be considered the best thing to facilitate the actions of the Legislature. Senator Withem, I would like to ask you a question or two, even though I think I understand what your amendment does. I would like to ask Senator Withem a question, if I may.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Withem, am I correct in understanding your amendment, is my understanding of your amendment correct that your amendment would say even if the proposed amendment or the amendment offered is considered germane, as a totality, once the question is divided with reference to that amendment, each component would be subject to the question of germaneness being raised with reference to it?

SPEAKER WITHEM: That is a very succinct understanding of what this rule change would do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, not for my purposes but for your own, you should consider whether or not what Senator Withem is offering is the wise thing to do. I'm going to tell you this day, January 17th, what I will eventually do if you don't adopt Senator Withem's amendment, then I might tell you what I will do if you do adopt it. But if