

January 17, 1995

you don't adopt it and one of those Christmas trees comes out here and I'm in the right mood, I'm going to delay on every single element of that Christmas tree amendment. If there is something that I think is inappropriate, even though I wouldn't attack it by way of germaneness, somebody else might, and I would have to vote against them on the germaneness question if the ruling narrowed the application of the germaneness rule. I don't want propositions excluded from bills because they're deemed nongermane. But, by having a germaneness rule, it does make issues available to me which otherwise would not be. And if I see a manipulation of the germaneness rule because whoever is in the Chair or because the body as a whole wants the Chair to rule in a way that's out of conformity and inconsistent with the way that germaneness ruling has been made before...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...then my attitude toward the way the rules are applied will cause me to show you how delay can occur and that despite the fact that the Chair in complicity with the majority or a majority in complicity with the Chair are going to rule inconsistently because they want to achieve a specific goal at this point, then I will delay and I will find a way to delay. So you might want what Senator Withem is offering. My time is not long enough for me to tell you what can be done if you reject his amendment, or anyway the opposite of what I had discussed just now.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Withem, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes, I do. First of all, there have been some side issues brought up and this is one, quite frankly, Senator Hall and Senator Chambers, I think, your core arguments are strong enough that there is, you know, no need to confuse matters by the issues like whether the Chair has to rule or doesn't have to rule, whether it affects committee amendments and all of those other things. You know, this is one, quite frankly, there are strong arguments on both sides and my main interest is seeing that it's clarified. I do think, after hearing the arguments, you've convinced me that I'm correct and I will, in fact, be voting for my own amendment which I wasn't a hundred percent sure of, to begin with. I do think...and it has happened more than once, I think Senator Chambers accurately points out one of the last times dealing with a Beutler