

January 17, 1995

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Hall, Landis, Bernard-Stevens, Chambers and Vrtiska.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Just a brief comment, Mr. Speaker. In response to Senator Landis' comment, I think that we've actually reiterated that in several different ways during the debate, not quite as well as you articulated it, but it's true. If you really want to shut down filibusters, give total power to the Speaker. I think that is the sum and substance of what you're saying, but you know it's a Catch-22 thing. How many of you want to give full power to the Speaker today? Well you know there are not 25 votes for that today, or at least I know that. So the question is, if you can't do it totally, do you take a step in that direction, do you deliver a message, do you wait and see how the rule works for a two-year experimental purpose? Isn't it worthwhile to do that? And I suggest to you that it is. See what happens. See if someone is willing to dare you to give power to the Speaker. See if it doesn't quiet things down a little when individuals in this body know that the body as a whole is willing to take the steps to ensure that dilatory processes are not used excessively. You know many of you seek tax equity year after year and some people say, aw, you'll never get tax equity. So, do you stop? Do you give up? Do you not try to take a step in the right direction? Governmental ethics, federal-state relationships, all of these questions, very difficult to solve. You don't solve them all at once. But that doesn't mean that we don't continually try to take steps in what we discern to be in our best judgment the right direction. And again, this is a balancing thing. This is a step in the right direction. If it's not enough, if Senator Landis is right, it's not enough, then two years from now we'll be here considering this again because we will remember again how many hours were wasted and how bad we felt and how frustrated we were and how angry the public was at the end of those sessions when things were a matter of threats and intimidation. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I rise in opposition to the entire proposal and the main reason I do that is because I don't think it's necessary. I think we currently have the ability to do virtually all that is incorporated into this rule change in our present system. I mean, break it down and look at it. Even though we may not spell it out the same