

January 18, 1995

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, and members, I rise in support of the Withem amendment, as I understand it, although I'm not sure that I totally understand it. But, going back to the welfare bill issue, using that as an example again, Senator Withem, we had the committee amendments which were rather lengthy, they were divided, we were on the first several divided parts of that, and we had reached cloture. And then, as you said, the precedent was we went ahead and voted to the pending amendment, then we vote on the...I think we just voted on the whole committee amendments, if I'm not mistaken, and then...no, but...can you explain it again then. I guess I'm...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, I think you're adding one more step than what we did.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Step number one is if it is an amendment to the amendment, you vote on that; then you vote on the amendment. And our question is, how do we define the amendment? Then after you vote on the amendment, then you vote on advancement of the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Now, the amendment by the Rules Committee, it's a question and the Rules Committee is doing the proper thing by bringing a clarification to the body, and it's one of those where I'm not that concerned which way it goes, I'm just putting the alternative before the body so it can make a decision. But do you define that amendment as...

SENATOR WESELY: The divided amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...the divided portion only, in which case then you vote on the divided portion and then on advancement of the bill, and then the undivided...then the remainder of the divided amendment is just hanging out there someplace? Or does cloture, in effect, pull the full amendment back together and do you divide on...then do you vote on the full amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SPEAKER WITHEM: And that's the issue before the body.