

January 18, 1995

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Bromm, I hate to burst that bubble, but it's very likely, particularly if this rule is adopted, where a committee knows that by putting this committee amendment together it will not and cannot be divisible and it has to be a vote on the whole thing or not, I can guarantee you it will be even more likely to take place with this rule. And I wanted to bring that up to the members of the Legislature. If we're trying...we have to be con...well, we won't ever be consistent, but we have to try to be consistent in all the rules that we pass. If, in fact, a couple days ago we pass a bill that says or a rule change that says, look, we're going to be able to divide the question and each one needs to be tested on germaneness because, in fact, we're concerned that we want to have germane bills or amendments, you know, offered. This makes no sense. This, in fact, falls and defies everything that we've done in the past and I guarantee you with this type of rule change the way it's worded on committee amendments, it would be almost too tempting for Committee Chairs at the end to put, and not just Committee Chairs, for committees to put the four or five bills that are not going to make it, they weren't prioritized, they're really important but we have this one bill that we can prioritize as a committee bill so let's put all the things we want in there and that has happened in the past, it will happen again and with this rule it will happen a lot more because you won't be able to divide those questions out. The way that portion of the rule is stated now would not serve the Legislature well.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Before we go on to our next speaker, I'd like to call the Legislature's attention to two guests that we have here today. Under the north balcony we have Mark McKeone from Cozad who is Senator Cudaback's guest, and under the south balcony we have former Senator Tom Fitzgerald from Omaha, so would you all welcome both of these guests. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, I have an amendment to the amendment. Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to amend by striking "the majority of those voting" and inserting "if two-thirds of the Legislature".

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bernard-Stevens, on your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, this change would change in line 5, this amendment