

January 18, 1995

would change in line 5, it would strike "a majority of those voting" so that if there were six people right now the way this is worded, that if we had a question on whether it's going to be divisible or not, if there are six people in the Chamber, you know, four people would be able to constitute a majority on the bill. What would this would simply say is, look, if we're going to take a senator's right away of dividing a question that is clearly divisible, we'd better make sure that there is a real good reason to do so and so this amendment would simply say that if we're going to pass this type of ruling, that two-thirds of the Legislature would have to be taken in order to take the right of division away from a particular senator even if it's a legitimate motion. Yeah, Madam President, Senator Chambers has brought to my attention, he is absolutely correct, my misinterpretation of the bill and at this point I would like to withdraw that amendment. Thank you, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, it is withdrawn. Back to the Elmer amendment. Speaker in line is Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Bernard-Stevens is absolutely correct in what he said about the way this rule is going to work and there are bills always lingering at the end of a session that a committee holds. And under our designation of a bill as a priority, the bill does not have to be out of committee. So a bill that is going to be held in committee until near the end of the session, for Christmas tree purposes, can be designated the committee's priority bill and held in committee. Then you add all of these different bills as a committee amendment and the question cannot be divided. The lobby is going to structure some of these things at the end of the session. And it troubles me that some of you who sat here, not as long as I have, but you've been here session after session, and you've seen what the lobby does at the end of a session in terms of putting together Christmas tree propositions. You even saw last session where after swearing almost that he would not sign a Christmas tree bill, the Governor signed one. Pressure is brought to bear and the end of the session is going to be like a pressure cooker. These rules that you think are going to do something to me are going to turn around and bite you, and I'm going to say I told you so and I'm going to mock and scoff and taunt and make you angrier in the last days of the session than you are now or than you ordinarily would be. You are building those kind of situations into the rules. You are sanctifying this process of