

you designated it your priority bill?

SENATOR HALL: Madam President and members, yes, Senator Chambers, it was.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now we know the bill is a gambling bill, but in a sense, you were taking a gamble by designating it your priority bill under those circumstances, weren't you?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers, that's not out of the norm.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why would you designate this bill your priority bill when it might not even get out of committee? I'm curious.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers, the issue is important enough to me and frankly there was...the committee was being very deliberative in terms of the issue and there were two competing proposals, one the committee bill, one my bill. The committee bill was designated as committee priority and I felt like I had to get off the mark so I designated this as my priority, hoping to basically encourage the committee to vote it out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you designated this your priority bill before the last day for making such designations, didn't you?

SENATOR HALL: I did.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well if it was important enough, then couldn't it have been jumped ahead of every other bill because of its importance?

SENATOR HALL: But I did not ask for that. It's really coming up in the order where it belongs.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that's the way you thought it should be I presume?

SENATOR HALL: I have no problem with the committee priority system as it exists. I do believe, as I stated in the chairs meeting the other day, that the Speaker has not only the right, but the duty to special order bills.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Hall. And on that point, I think when we get to the issue of ethics and integrity of a