

May 8, 1995

LB 658

would be my recommendation at this point to the body. And I would certainly cooperate with an amendment to the agenda to allow that to be done if the parties were willing to do that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I have objected to a personal privilege in the past. I am one of the few people who's used Section 11 to make an objection on the floor. It was not uncommon for a couple of years, when we had a weak Chair, for somebody, after a debate, to pop up, claim personal privilege, be recognized and then continue to debate. And that's because there's a particular part of this rule, personal privilege shall not be used to permit any discussion or debate pertaining to any measure pending before the Legislature. For the future, let me tell you what I think how this system should operate. And that is that when somebody asks for a statement of personal privilege, it is customary for the Chair to say, please state your point. At which point the person gives a quick thumbnail of what they intend to talk about and the Chair then has a quick decision to make as to whether or not it falls within or without the rule. If it is a continuation of debate, it should be ruled out of order immediately. If it is a statement about the precedent, rights, dignity, integrity, the Chair should recognize it. If it is, I think, one of those matters that falls between and as we have used by custom, it seems to me that if it's not clearly in the rule and not clearly outside the rule, the Chair would serve us all well by saying, is there objection to taking up the point? My guess is that in the case of most and almost every situation there wouldn't be. Once that was asked and there was no action, then any objection would be untimely and would be permitted. The control of this rule lies in the conduct of the Chair to make an immediate decision as to whether it's in or out. And if it's not one of those two it seems to me that if you just simply ask if there's an objection, we would be able to continue the continuation of our precedent and not run afoul of the rule.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. You are under call. I will raise the call. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Referring to what Senator Landis just said, I did speak to the Madam President and she did not tell me that I was out of order.