

January 8, 1996

SENATOR WILL: My recollection, Senator Chambers, is that what the committee decided was that we ought to clarify the rule one way or the other. We discussed the merits of both positions and came down on the side of making the motions nondivisible.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And as serious a matter as...first of all, did the committee view this as a serious issue?

SENATOR WILL: Yes, Senator Chambers. This was something that we...we know the ramifications one way or the other aren't great as to whether such a motion is divisible or not and I do think the committee viewed it as a serious matter.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Were there any other proposals that commanded more discussion time than this one?

SENATOR WILL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Will. That's all I'll ask you at this point. Members of the Legislature, 15 minutes is all the time that the committee gave to discussing this proposal. Were it not for the fact that I am speaking, maybe less time than that would be given to it on the floor. It seems that the more serious an issue is the less the Legislature as a whole is capable of dealing with it. But when we get to a matter which some people call a "no-brainer," but I don't, like changing the number on the license plates to designate those which will have a lower number based on the number of automobiles registered there will be editorials, I've seen one already, there will be a threat to bring everybody from the county down because people can understand that. That's a Forrest Gump issue where you say...somebody says, my name is John; people call me Johnny. He says, my name is Forrest Gump; people call me Forrest Gump. Well, on that level the Legislature can understand and operate. There is an evil...an even intellectual playing field. But when we come to those serious matters that do, in fact, relate to the prerogatives of the Legislature as an institution or to us as individual members, these things are just whisked off the board and dealt with in a very slipshod and careless manner, in my opinion. I take the rules very seriously. I'm not familiar with every rule that we have in our book. I am not aware of the historical background that led to the adoption of every rule and every