

January 8, 1996

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, because this proposed rule change consists of one line of material, it's very easy to offer an amendment that will be understood. As it stands, the proposal says, "Any motion offered under this section may not be divided." I simply strike the "not" and it would read, "Any motion offered under this section may be divided" and this is the approach we ought to take. First of all, I doubt that there would be the necessity to try to divide every veto override when there is a packaging, but when I have stuff rubbed in my face, as the Legislature's doing this morning, I have a long memory and I like to bring it back on you so that you can experience in your emotions what I experience in mine. I want to show you how trying to amend your rules to stifle, all you do is play into my hands. You deliver the whole thing into my hands. Now Jesus said one time that if an individual is going to face an attack by a warring group and he has a smaller number of fighters than the group coming against him, would he not, as a wise person, sit down and contemplate whether or not he, with his few, can defeat the many? And if he decides that with his few he cannot defeat the many, would it not be wise at that time to go forth and see if some kind of accommodation or accord could be reached? That is the way wisdom operates. The Legislature is not known for its wisdom, but I always attempt to separate myself out from the mob to show that I am thinking, make it clear in the record what my thoughts are, why I have those thoughts, and why I try to prevail on the Legislature or a majority to see it the way that I do. You should not change the rule simply to change it. Senator Will said the driving force for a change in this particular rule is to clarify it; that the clarifying could take two approaches. One, the one that they decided to take which is to say there can be no division of the question. The other is the one that I'm offering and, based on what Senator Will said earlier, it's the one that Senator Vrtiska originally brought to the committee. We can amend the rule, bring clarification and certitude by making it clear that these packages can be divided; that they are subject to divisions as are every other question which comes before us. Few questions will come before a legislative body as important as those that deal with the expenditure of money. There will be no conflicts more sharply drawn and delineated between the legislative branch and the executive branch than when it comes to how money is to be spent and the Governor decides that his view is contrary to the Legislature and he vetoes a spending proposal. If he vetoes several, we should be able to try to