

January 8, 1996

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, to close on his amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, this morning, even though I'm debating in detail this particular proposed rule change and I'll do so on others where I think necessary, I'm not trying to delay us for the purpose of delay but I am trying to delay us. I'm trying to delay us long enough so that nobody will be able to say when the crunch time comes I did not know why that rule change got in, I don't know how it got in and it slipped by without my being aware of it. The length of the transcript of the debate will, in itself, show that we spent some time on this proposal and the body chose either to disregard it or to disregard the possible consequences. So all that I'm doing here is saying that, as a man who understands that from my position of being outnumbered in many, many instances, the only ally I have is in the rules and my knowledge of the rules. Therefore, I pay attention to them. As a man in that situation, I'm advising, although it's gratuitous advice and unsought, that we should pay attention to what we're doing in adopting these permanent rules. So what my amendment would do is to take what the Rules Committee has offered to us. We would strike the word "not" and we would, by doing that, clarify the rule which Senator Will said was the main intent of the Rules Committee, clarification, so that we know either you can divide the question or you cannot. I think from the discussion this morning it's clear that to take away the right to divide the question is not going to facilitate smooth operation. All it's going to do is leave only one alternative. Right now, if we agree to allow a question to be divided, my preference, if I have an objection to the package, would be to divide the question so that we can get one discussion on each of those items that makes up the package. But if there is no opportunity to divide the question, and I will probably be in a somewhat agitated state of mind because I'm opposed to the package, then I want you all to join me in my agitated state of mind. And the way I've found to be most successful in doing that is to make you take a lot of time and listen to me talk to you, listen to me lecture, listen to me mock, listen to me taunt, listen to me tell jokes. This time I might add to my repertoire singing and I think that will get you quicker than anything else because there was this one man, he said when I am sad I sing, then the whole world is sad with me. That is a threat that I'm giving, but I