

January 8, 1996

and Janssen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support this particular rule change. And, Senator Withem, I want to make sure that I understand as well what we're doing, at least I support it, with the following understanding. The protection that's here is obviously the subject matter of jurisdiction of the committee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Correct.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: So, for example, in Transportation I can't convince the committee or the committee can't convince me that we ought to be putting in revenue measures into the transportation bills and bringing them to the floor. Clearly not germane, but that would violate the spirit perhaps of even the custom that's been used on the floor. However, let's say we're debating a bill. Senator Coordsen, I think, had a bill dealing with safety of construction zones, but in his bill he didn't...he dealt with some other issues. We feel that it would be better to let's say, for example, reduce the speed limit for a construction zone. Speed limit's obviously within the jurisdiction of the committee, but there's no other bill out there dealing with speed limits or so on. So what we're doing is saying here's a subject matter jurisdiction of the committee, we feel this would be best used as an enforcement tool or to enhance the piece of legislation. Maybe if some member would bring that on the floor that may not be germane, however, because the committee, in trying to deal with the entire issue, trying to deal with a comprehensive approach to make debate more logical, perhaps after the hearing process, taking in public input, feels that that type of information or that particular provision is appropriate, that would be germane. That's really what we're talking about here, isn't it, is combining those jurisdictional types of things to make the debate more logical and perhaps better organized to present to the floor?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, I think I agree with everything you said except, you know, I'm one who, and I know this is a minority view in the body. I think most of the body is comfortable with giving committees a greater degree of flexibility in proposing amendments that may otherwise be nongermane, they come through the committee process. That is a tradition in here that's not being changed by this. I don't know as I personally agree with