

January 8, 1996

ask Senator Withem a question, just f r a minute.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Now this would be, Senator Withem, this would be, you could move another bill into that existing bill only if it had had a hearing, right? If you were going to take an entirely new bill and put it into that, it would have had to have a hearing in a committee.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Not necessarily, by this rule. I don't, I don't think so. I can't imagine a committee doing that, a committee saying that we have two bills before us, this first bill's coming up on the first day of hearings and this other bill's coming up later on in the session so let's avoid a committee hearing and put this bill into this one here and move it on through the process. You know, there are probably each session, Senator Janssen, let me punch my light if you're going to need more time and let me expand a little bit on yours, if I could. There are any number of proposals that this Legislature passes via amendment that have not had public hearings. We tend to try not to do that, but I'm thinking of using cigarette tax to do a city auditorium in Omaha, that never had a public hearing, yet it was something we felt was important to do as a Legislature. So, no, I, no, the bill would not necessarily have had to have a public hearing. I apologize for the long answer.

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right, but then it would also, you could move those bills in your committee so they were heard, too.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Sure.

SENATOR JANSSEN: You know, I'm sure that you will, as the committee progresses you're going to see with this, with this rules change the...that possibility and you could move those bills around so at least they do get a public hearing.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, right. I would assure most committee Chairs would want the public hearing to have taken place. We all want to see public hearings take place and we only do those sorts of things in extreme, what we consider to be extreme circumstances.