

January 8, 1996

attempted to be added as an amendment that this no longer is substantially the same and you can get the ruling from the Chair and the rule itself has been circumvented. Now, I'm going...that's my comment. I have seen instances...oh, and that's all I'll ask you, Senator Wickersham, at this point. I have seen instances where we have played with words to make it appear something is being done within the rules but we really circumvented the rules by having a ruling of the Chair because it would take more votes to suspend the rule or have some other motion adopted than it would to override the Chair if it took fewer votes than 25 or to sustain the Chair if it took fewer votes than 25. But a bill, I mean an amendment, which has a word like substantially in it, and that is subject to interpretation by different people in the Chair, by members on the floor of the Legislature, and no two situations will be exactly the same so it would be hard to say the Chair was inconsistent. I don't think it is a good rule. Basically, though, I don't think it's a good idea to require the attachment of any amendment to a bill more than 25 votes. Since a bill can be killed with fewer than 25, it's not good, in my opinion, to require 30...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to attach it as an amendment. But I don't know what substantially means. Senator Wickersham offering the bill...the change to us cannot tell us what it means other than to him at this particular time. But when we have a difficult situation, one of those amendments is before us which is to be added to the bill, maybe the Governor wants it or maybe some economic interest outside the Chamber wants it or some high-powered lobbyist needs it then the church will...the Chair will be prevailed on to rule that it's substantially the same if it's to be defeated or not substantially the same...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if it's to be allowed with fewer than 30 votes.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Withem would move to amend the proposed rules change.