

January 9, 1996

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to the motion to adopt permanent rules, Senator Will had moved for the adoption of Rules Committee amendment number four. I had pending, when the Legislature adjourned yesterday, an amendment to that proposal. That amendment was offered by Senator Chambers. (Chambers amendment may be found on page 279 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: A Chambers' amendment to the Rules Committee amendment four is now pending. Senator Chambers, would you just take a couple minutes to bring us up-to-date on what this amendment does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker, and thank you. This rule...this proposed rule change, number four, was brought by Senator Wickersham. And in the form that he offered it, it would say that if an amendment is substantially the same as a bill which had been killed, regardless of whether in committee, at the first stage of debate, which would be General File, or anywhere else along the way, if such an amendment resembled a bill that had been killed then it would take 30 votes to adopt that amendment. I have offered an amendment to his which would strike the word "substantially", and instead of the amendment saying, "substantially the same as any bill indefinitely postponed", the amendment that I'm offering would cause his to say, "except amendments which are the same as any bill indefinitely postponed". So, my amendment would strike the word "substantially" in the three places that it appears in Senator Wickersham's amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. To discuss this amendment, Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Hello. (Laugh.)

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. I think we're...I think all systems are functioning now. Well, I think Senator Chambers has succinctly set out for you what the proposal does and what his amendment does. What he did not say is if you take out the word "substantially" that the proposal is meaningless, because I'm sure that Senator Chambers has in the back of his mind that if you change a comma, or a jot, or a dash, or a single word that it is no longer "the same", and therefore would be fair game.