

January 9, 1996

it, but, Senator Chambers, this amendment has nothing to do with you. I know that I, or you, or other members of this body can tie us in knots with proposed amendments, with reconsiderations, with divisions, with all of the other things that are permitted in the rule, in the rules now. This proposal has nothing at all to do with you, I'm sorry. The proposal has to do with conforming our rules in a way that makes sense. It takes 30 votes to move a bill out of committee if it's been killed. It should take 30 votes to amend that same bill into another measure that's pending before our body. That seems to me to be a simple mirroring of the process. It would tend to strengthen the committees. I'm in favor of strengthening the committees. I don't care what other considerations you might wish to raise, those are my primary concerns. And with that, I think Senator Vrtiska would like some of my time, and I'll yield that to him.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Chambers, I'd like to ask you a question, if I could. And these are not meant to be...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: (Inaudible remark.) I'll answer them.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay, okay. Let me ask you first, I'm sure you do. You believe in the committee system, don't you?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Actually, when I use the term "believe in" I'm selective in how I use that. I believe in algebra, I accept the committee system as being a part of our internal process.

SENATOR VRTISKA: But it's difficult for me to understand that you don't believe enough in the committee system that you think that.... You know, I was led to believe that the committee system is set up for the purpose of trying to screen out those bills that probably don't have a lot of merit to begin with, and to make it so that it's.... It seemed to me that too many bills are brought out of the committee and put on the floor that end up not having that much...that much reason to. And what Wickersham, Senator Wickersham is trying to do is make it a little more difficult. It doesn't mean you can't do it, in my opinion. All it means is it makes it so that there are certainly enough people up here who would believe that that was an issue that was...that the committee should have looked more closely at. I believe in the committee system and the system that we have here, where the committees that I sit on spend a