

January 9, 1996

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. The reason that...I need to clarify, I think, the reason that my comments focused on the committee system and on bills that had been killed in committee is that I believe in the majority of situations in which an amendment would be attempted that is...contains a measure that is substantially the same as a bill that had been killed, it would be a bill that had been killed in committee. And, frankly, that's where the focus of the discussion was in the Rules Committee as well. However, at the same time I think in order to be consistent if you favor the Wickersham approach, if you favor a super majority for a bill that's been killed, I believe that it probably should apply to bills that had been killed on the floor as well as bills that had been killed in committee, because I think the best argument against the Wickersham proposal is probably that that Senator Bernard-Stevens raised yesterday, which is that four members of a committee, in effect, can hold up a bill and probably eventually get a bill killed, perhaps thwarting the will of the body. On the other hand, a bill that has actually been killed by the Legislature as a whole, there's probably actually more an argument to require a super majority to revive a bill of that type than there is for a bill that had been killed in committee. So while a lot of the debate has focused on the committee system, and the strengthening of the committee system, and I do believe that would be one effect of this amendment, I think if you favor the Wickersham approach, in order to be consistent I think you probably should apply it to any bill that has been indefinitely postponed. For that reason I would oppose the Chambers amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, likewise, will oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. I think Senator Will has spoken adequately as to a rationale for opposing Senator Chambers' amendment. I know that in his opening speech on this amendment Senator Chambers said that he would lose, even if we...or he would win, I'm sorry, even if we rejected his amendment. I'm perfectly happy to have you win, Ernie, so I would urge the body to object...to reject your amendment.