

January 9, 1996

I'm a soft touch. You know that if you come to me and I can be of assistance, that's what I will do. But I might go into my MTS mode when you come to me, a little mockery, taunting and scoffing, scornfully. This amendment that I'm offering does not change anything from what we do currently. It gives Senator Wickersham, Senator Will, and Senator Vrtiska, who tailed along behind them, what they claimed their goal is, and that is to strengthen the committee system. If a bill is killed in committee and it takes 30 votes to pull it out, let 30 votes be required to add it to a bill as an amendment, if the amendment is substantially the same as the bill. Now, what does "substantially the same" mean? Look up "same" in the dictionary and either it is or it is not. It cannot be substantially this or that, so you're being given language that is not even by the dictionary correct, and that's the way you draft your rules. You whose language this is, can there be a substantially straight line, or must the line be straight? If it has a wiggle, no matter how infinitesimal, it is not a straight line. There's only one way to draw a straight line, only one way. And there is only one way things can be the same. So how can it be substantially the same? We're not talking about similar. Substantially the same, either it's the same, or it's not. Look up "same" in the dictionary. But that doesn't make the legislators any difference. Not only do I take an interest in the rules, I'm interested in words, I'm interested in language. I don't know nearly as much as I would like to know about words or language. But I pay attention to these things, and I read constantly to try to improve my education when it comes to words and language. There is power in words, there is power in...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...language properly used. And when we are drafting legislation, or when we're drafting rules we should be attentive to the language that we use, I will be, but I'm only 1 out of 49. So, I am not able, through force of will, personality or anything else, with my 1 vote, to overcome the votes of 48 others. But on this particular amendment I hope enough of you will agree with it to adopt it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, to close on his amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, there was a song