

January 9, 1996

SENATOR WILL: Except for an amendment to a bill that is returned for a specific amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, so even though we say that amendments can be amended, we already have a situation, with reference to the amending process, which is inconsistent with what is done at other stages. Is that correct?

SENATOR WILL: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that inconsistency applies when we have a bill on Final Reading. Is that correct?

SENATOR WILL: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So, if we offer an amendment at General File or Select File, we can amend, or attempt to amend that amendment.

SENATOR WILL: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But once that bill gets to Final Reading, even if we return it to Select File for an amendment, that amendment which we're attempting to offer cannot be amended, is that what you're telling me?

SENATOR WILL: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Will, that is, as you stated, an inconsistency with the existing rule relative to amendments. So, if what I say, by way of this amendment that I'm offering was adopted, it would follow the same type of inconsistency, if we want to call it that, that exists with reference to amending a bill right now. Isn't that correct?

SENATOR WILL: Except for the fact that, under your approach that you are suggesting, it would make it easier to amend a bill that had gone to Final Reading, whereas, I believe, the intent of the...no amending an amendment process that is now in place, which is inconsistent, as you pointed out, the intent there is to make it more difficult to amend a bill that has gone to Final Reading. I think that would be the difference.