

January 9, 1996

really get to the heart of the measure and really in fact do need to be considered before the bill goes forward. With the order of amendments coupled with the cloture motion that we now have in effect, we have been in cases where we have put forth proposals that are less than our best product because we have not been able to get to the amendments. If anything I think we need a system whereby we can get to those amendments. That is my analysis of the measure. This Legislature in comparison with other legislatures around the country has a comparatively weak speaker system, I'm not objecting to that. I think by and large we need that. We are a Unicameral Legislature, we are a nonpartisan Legislature, we don't have the check of the other house or the discipline of party membership to organize things and we don't want to invest too much power in one individual. I support that.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I do not want to see a strong speaker system where the speaker would be able to set the rules for debate, would be able to refer all the bills to committee, would be able to pick the committee Chair's, unless it is a Health and Human Services Chair. Other than that, no I don't think we ought to have that power in the Speaker. I do though, from time to time, get requests urgings verging on demands when we hit a log jam to say, you the speaker have to do something about this, whatever this is, are limited to powers of persuasion and powers of special ordering. This is an additional authority that may be... you may want to consider. Let me make, do I have much more time of Senator Schimek's time left?

SENATOR COORDSEN: None.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Thank you Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you Senator Withem. We have a number of lights on. I do not know how many of you wish to speak to the Maurstad amendment so I will run down the list, Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay, Senator Withem.