

January 10, 1996

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Okay. Also, Senator, if the Executive Board and the Speaker, as I read it, have to agree on these five or perhaps ten bills.

SENATOR WILL: The Speaker would designate the bills and then the Exec Board would have to approve them; or if the Exec Board rejected a determination made by the Speaker, then that would not be a major proposal.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So the Exec Board has to approve also, not just the Speaker.

SENATOR WILL: That's right.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. This is a major change for this body. I think we need to listen very closely to some of the ideas put forth, but Senator Chambers makes some very good points about putting the control into one individual's hands so I'm going to listen very closely on this. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam Speaker, members of the...Madam President, members of the Legislature, again we're on the Maurstad amendment but our conversation is going beyond that and so I am going to engage in some conversation beyond the Maurstad amendment. And as with Senator Will, I have no objection to starting with a smaller number of bills. That may be entirely appropriate. In any event, I wanted to emphasize that this is being proposed to you as a major, major change, a change in the sense that the Speaker is given some enormous enhanced power. But I don't think in fact that that's the case, that the power that the Speaker is given is simply a kind of preliminary organizing power. And if that power is in any way abused, there are two checks on that power. One is that he has to have the approval of the Executive Board. Okay, that's check number one. Now the way I view this thing, and we made some changes in language to emphasize this point, you know, right now in our statutes with regard to the setting of the schedule, did you know the Executive Board...that's subject to approval by the Executive Board? Everything that the Speaker has on the agenda and the order, that's all subject, the language is subject to