

January 10, 1996

amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President and members of the Legislature, let me just make a couple of points and let me preface it by saying this is not my amendment. Somebody said it was my amendment. It's not. I hadn't seen it until it came before the Rules Committee. I think it's Senator Bromm's and Senator Will's amendment. But when I saw it I thought really it was exactly what we needed; it was exactly the kind of modest step forward that we need in order to be a reasonably organized body. Now Senator Landis gave a very nice speech about how this will not shut down Senator Chambers, but that's not the point of this, to shut down Senator Chambers. That's not the point at all and I hope that that's not the debate we're getting into here. The question is how can we logically and in an enlightened manner determine what our program should be for the year, rather than doing the haphazard thing that we have done from time immemorial of simply not being very organized, not talking to each other, not getting together on the important issues? Senator Chambers says, well, and makes a big long speech about the little guy and what we're doing to the little guy in this Legislature, and it's a very clever speech, of course, because if he can break off three or four votes because the little guy, whoever that is in this Legislature, perceives an elitism, sure, that helps defeat the amendment. It's very clever, but it's not accurate, but it's not accurate. Remember the history of the institution. First we had special order, total control in the Speaker, and then we went the other way. Then we set up the priority bill system to give the little guy some say in the Legislature. Every little guy could have a priority bill. Every little guy could participate in his Committee on Committee priority bills. And now we are taking one step further limiting the Speaker. I mean, this amendment can honestly be seen as a limitation on the Speaker because if you have this rule in effect the use of special order as an arbitrary tool will be further discouraged and may be on the point of being repealed by us. It depends on what competence we develop in this new rule. The only reason for this special order rule for this uninhibited or uncontrolled power in the Speaker under the special order category is because we don't have enough confidence in our rules to take away that power, and the reason we don't have enough confidence in our rules is because we don't have other ordering rules by which we can assure ourselves that the important matters will come up. So if