

January 11, 1996

Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I did listen to what Senator Bernard-Stevens was saying but, Senator Bernard-Stevens, I'd like to ask you precisely what your amendment does.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Chambers, it takes...on Section 17 and you go down to subsection (c), determine the scheduling of the proposed (sic) and the orders of amendments and motions to be considered, that would be deleted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, just deleted. You're not changing the determine.... Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Deleted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, Senator Bernard-Stevens has touched on the absolutely worst part of this proposal and I support his amendment. Even though some of these other things that are above it I find objectionable because of the intrinsic and elitism contained in them, what Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment goes after is the pernicious part. This is what I referred to frequently during my other discussions of previous amendments and I don't believe that the Speaker we currently have, or any other Speaker, should have the power to order which amendments and motions will be considered. Many of them would not be considered at all and we know this. I've talked to some of you off the microphone...I meant while not on the microphone, while not discussing it by way of the microphone...of something that happened when we were dealing with what has become known as the ConAgra bill, or LB 775. I had strenuous objections to that bill and specific parts of it. There was extended debate. Senator Vard Johnson was carrying water for then Governor Kay Orr. He got angry, others got angry, but as some of them listened to amendments that I offered they decided, well, yeah, these are some things that need to be considered, and we started looking at some of those amendments. So I want to say in the beginning that out of all of that hostility and acrimony came something positive, but the fact is a bad bill was enacted. On one of the days I had a number of amendments. ConAgra and others wanted to get something else