

January 11, 1996

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Beutler, when you were just speaking you said that somebody, if they don't like a bill...you didn't say if they don't like a bill, but I'm adding it in to give it context...can slap up ten amendments which have to do with nothing except a desire or an aim to talk. Is that basically what you had said, one of your comments?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think that's accurate.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And did you say it doesn't take any brains to do that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, if you have a bill in which you're interested, how many brains does it take for you to put up the amendments, slap your amendments up before somebody without brains slaps up ten amendments against it? How many brains does it take for you to do that if it's your bill and it needs amendments? It doesn't take any brains, does it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I guess I'm...I guess I'm not understanding your question, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you. I will...I will make an assertion. If Senator Beutler has a bill and he thinks it needs amendments, why doesn't he slap his amendments up there first? It doesn't take any brains to put any amendments up there, so that means if you have somebody without any brains, smarter than he is and they can put their amendments that go to nothing up there, then he has placed himself below the person who has no brains. What I'm trying to get at is Senator Beutler and others are trying to cure defects in senators by changing the rules. Now if I don't like a bill and I can offer amendments, if it's a senator's bill why doesn't the senator put up the amendments that he or she thinks that the bill needs first? Why don't they do that? No, they want to sit back. They want to go drink and eat with the lobbyists. They want to play games and talk to the Governor and then, at the last minute, they want to come running in here because suddenly they began to pay attention to a bill that they offered or somebody told them to offer or somebody gives them amendments and say, now you put those in there and you find a way to get them ahead of everybody else's amendment. That's what they're talking about--their own laziness, their own