

January 11, 1996

time they get up to the Clerk, they may be way down the line. So I don't think that it makes a lot of sense to say, well, the way we do it is good because it's a race to the Clerk and whoever can get there first with all their amendments, they win; that's the way you make good law. That's not the way you make good law in my opinion. Secondly, Senator Robinson was discussing...had some good discussion on the motion to suspend the rule and the ability, or the lack of ability, to use the motion to suspend the rule for the purpose of reordering amendments, and I think we understood from that conversation that it, in fact, would take a motion to suspend the rule in order to reorder amendments. There are two problems with that. One is that such a motion takes 30 votes, which is a supermajority of the votes, simply to get to the point where you should be in the first place, of considering hopefully the most important amendments first. Secondly, and the insuperable problem with this solution in many situations will be, if the person filing the amendments is smart about it, they will file those amendments before a motion to suspend can be filed, and so you're in a position where an illogical race to the Clerk will determine whether...whether such a motion can ever even get up. And so you wouldn't ordinarily file such a motion unless there are so many amendments filed that obviously all of them are not going to be heard and, by that point in time then, when you file the motion, you're behind all the amendments. It's not a priority motion. It doesn't come ahead of all those amendments so you have to hear all the amendments before you get to the motion to suspend which, in fact, defeats for all practical purposes your motion to suspend the rules. So that process simply will not work in a situation that's been thought about by both sides. Those are the simple things I wanted to discuss just so that everybody understood all the dimensions of the discussion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I listened to Senator Beutler very carefully. A lot of times I agree with him, but one thing I detect, Senator Beutler is not as accustomed as I am to continuing to push vigorously his points of view while all the other senators are walking around, milling and not paying attention. But it doesn't matter whether they pay attention or not because the main thing that a lot of our discussion on the rules will do is