

January 11, 1996

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of Senator Maurstad's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Maurstad amendment is adopted. Is there anything further on the fifth section of the rules?

CLERK: The next amendment offered by Senator Chambers. Senator, paragraph A in the last sentence, after the word "approved", insert the word "unanimously".

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, what I would like to do in discussing this amendment that I'm offering is to suggest to Senator Withem, Senator Beutler, Senator Bromm, and Senator Will to listen to what I'm going to say, because it's not on the amendment that I have before you now. Senator Maurstad's amendment, which we just adopted, does narrow the scope, in one sense, of the types...of the bills that can be selected. We have a date by which bills must be designated a senator's priority bill. His amendment based on my understanding, does away with this 20-day limitation that was in the original proposal and makes his proposal, his amendment which was adopted mesh with the date by which senators must select their priority bills. In view of that having been done, there is no further need whatsoever for subdivisions (b) of two...and well, you want to keep (c). But there is no need to talk about the committees having to conduct hearings by a certain date, or take action by a certain date. We can eliminate all of that because it's surplusage now. And by eliminating that language, nothing is going to be harmed, because a senator may designate a priority bill prior to any hearing being conducted, or after hearings have been conducted. But since we know that the only bills from which these major proposals can be selected will be bills designated by a senator as a priority bill, there is no way that this language that I'm talking about makes any sense whatsoever. If senators have not selected a priority bill by the date when such bills must be selected, those senators cannot designate a priority bill. Since we have a date certain by which we know all the bills that will fit in the priority bill category, what sense does it make to say, require each committee to which a major proposal has