

January 11, 1996

been referred to hold a public hearing by a date certain, when we don't even know which bills, by that time, will be priority bills? Senator Withem, let me ask you a question, 'cause you're nodding, so at least you've followed along with what I've said.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I was nodding of what Senator Wehrbein was saying to me, I'm sorry, but....

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, okay. Well, then let me ask you a question. Have you followed what I have been talking about?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Moderately. I missed a couple of sentences here and there, so as I understand your con...you're saying because now these bills have to be designated as individual senator priority bills. and beings that's usually done after committee hearings, then this message, as it relates...to the portion of this that relates to Speakers telling committees what to do in terms of hearings, is no longer needed. Is that your contention?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Okay. Okay. Are you asking my opinion of what you're saying?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I...I would disagree with you as far as whether this is superfluous now. It is less important. Let me give an example, and in Senator Maurstad's bill is, in fact, one of those. He has until the 21st of February to make his priority designation. He chose to make a bill that's been referred to the Judiciary Committee his personal priority. Were I to choose that one, which there's no reason to think that I would necessarily...were I to choose that as one of the five major issues, I could...and this rule were in effect, I could do that today, and this language, as it relates to what we would expect Senator Lindsay to do as the committee Chair would still be of value to seeing that proposal through the system.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But, Senator Withem, does not leaving this language in make it possible, and I'm speaking in abstract terms now, for a senator and a Speaker to get in cahoots with each other and jum in and name a bill like this so that the Speaker