

January 11, 1996

will order the committee to do that on that particular bill?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, it certainly does.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it gives that senator a leg up on everybody else, when maybe they have not, the other senators, have not made a determination. This is where that concept of a race comes in. Others have reasons for not designating a bill right away. Go ahead, you can take the time to respond.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, and I have my light on, I'll be happy to give you some time back on my time, if you need it. Yeah, I think you raised the point. And those that are supportive of this provision would say that's why they want to keep it in the rule because it is...it does add some strategic maneuvering ability on a major proposal. Your concern is you want it out. I guess the only point I'm making is, at this point, is disagreeing with you where you say it is now superfluous language. And I think your comments indicate that it still, in fact, does have some...some power, power you would prefer not to be seen given to an individual, power others may like to see given. So that was the only point I was making.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and I understand your point, I do. But I want to make mine clear. See, in all of this that we're doing, I'm suspicious, I am skeptical. I don't want us to put into the rule a system, ready-made to produce mischief. Senator Beutler was in disagreement with me about a person whose bill it is having to rush up there and put amendments on before some no-brained person offered his or her amendments, because he didn't want to have a rush to the Chair...to the Clerk's desk. Now, if we leave this language in along with what Senator Maurstad offered, by the time you have made your priority bill designation, the Speaker may have selected three already, and you have no chance, and those three are going to be given this expedited status, unless members of a committee take offense and feel, as I'm suggesting may happen, that there was some chicanery and a bill which might have had a chance to get out may not get out of committee because politics will enter into the designation and giving it special consideration. Without this language all the bills that are designated priority bills will leave the starting gate at the same time. If a senator has designated a bill a priority before the deadline and gets that bill out of committee and across the board, it's not even up for