

January 11, 1996

consideration anyway because it has been processed. The only bills, realistically, that this language of Senator Maurstad's will apply to are those selected after the deadline, those bills still have not been processed. If they're stuck in committee, the Speaker's designation of them as major issues will not pull them out of committee. So what my suggestion would be, and I'll offer an amendment to that effect, and I may substitute it for one of those others that I have up there, but I don't have time to do it now, so that we can discuss what I'm talking about as an amendment before us, take away all of this discussion of the Speaker telling the committees, or trying to get committee chairpersons to agree to expedite the hearing and so forth of a bill. But despite that the committee can kill it. So if the Speaker has designated one of these early bills as a major issue and it's killed in committee, then one of the Speaker's designations has been rendered null and void because he still can only make two at the most.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it makes total sense, in my opinion, to wait until after this deadline, know the full range of bills available, and even if some are stuck in committee, the Speaker would be in a better position to determine then whether some have a chance of getting out or not. And if it seems like some of them are not getting out, he would not waste a designation on one of those bills. It will be selecting one that is before us, that has some chance of being considered. And that's what my argument is.

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

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment that we really haven't discussed yet. But the amendment before us actually is one that I do oppose. I guess to the topic at hand, which Senator Chambers has raised with respect to the Speaker being allowed or authorized to sit down with the committee chairmen and determine a date certain for a public hearing and for committee action, I would echo Senator Withem's comments with respect to that, that I think that if a priority bill is designated early enough and the Speaker sees fit, if this rule change were enacted, to designate that bill a major proposal, with the approval of the Executive Board, then I think that the