

January 17, 1996

in the form that they were adopted. We're currently dealing with proposed rule change number six. It is contained also in the packet that I had distributed. And the text as it is...appears in your packet includes the changes that we have adopted thus far. As you might recall, this is the rule change that would allow the Speaker to designate bills or resolutions as major proposals, and then would give the Speaker the ability to sit down with committee chairpeople and determine when a major proposal would be heard, when it would have to be dealt with by that committee. And also, should that major proposal be advanced to the floor, it would allow the Speaker to determine the order in which amendments or motions are taken up on that major proposal. We have thus far reduced the number of bills that the Speaker would be allowed to designate as major proposals from ten to five. We have required the Executive Board to concur with the Speaker's determination, which was part of the original proposal. As it currently stands, we have adopted an amendment that would require two-thirds of the Executive Board to concur. We have also eliminated the requirement that originally was in the committee's proposal that the designation would have to occur by the 20th legislative day. So that could be...that could occur at any point during a legislative session, as the rule proposal now stands. I believe...we have dealt with a series of amendments. I believe there are several more amendments, in addition to a motion that are left to be considered. And with that, Mr. Speaker, that's where we are on the current proposal. At this point I assume we would simply take up the pending amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Mr. Clerk, what do we have pending on the proposed rule change?

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have this morning is by Senator Chambers. Senator, I have your amendment that you had indicated number three. (Read Chambers amendment as found on page 443 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, thank you, Mr. Clerk. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this is a very serious amendment, and I hope you will give a few minutes of attention to it. As I've stated repeatedly, I am totally opposed to this rule change that is before us today. But in case you should adopt it, and I hope you won't, I think we ought to look at what it is that we're dealing with. And because resolutions, as demonstrated by