

January 17, 1996

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...as far as what amendments may be taken. And you want to be very cautious about how much power you give in a position, not knowing who, in the future, may be in that position or what the issue may be and which amendments were not chosen. I choose not to take that risk. I would like to urge the body to vote to reconsider the previous vote we took on eliminating Section (c).

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. The motion before the body is the reconsideration of the Bernard-Stevens amendment. Senators Chambers, Will, Beutler and Matzke have had their lights on.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, because of the other changes that have occurred in this proposal number six, if, in addition to those changes, Senator Bernard-Stevens' motion is successful and we remove this subdivision (c), I think a giant step in seven league boots will have been taken toward making this proposal number six much more palatable, because it will not create a dictatorship by the Speaker. If Senator Bernard-Stevens' motion is not successful, and if proposal number six is adopted, and a point is reached where the Speaker feels the need to enforce or invoke this power, there will be a battle and I think everybody knows it. There is no justifiable basis in the setting found in a Unicameral to allow the Speaker to schedule the order of amendments and motions to be considered. I would like to ask a question of Senator Beutler, because the Speaker is in the...well, let me ask Senator Will, as the Rules Committee Chair and, Senator Beutler, if he can't answer it, I would then ask it of you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Will, although proposal six describes powers of the Speaker, this power to schedule the order of amendments and motions would be left to whoever sits in the Chair at the time we're considering one of these major proposals, is that correct?

SENATOR WILL: No. My reading of it would be that the Speaker,