

January 17, 1996

SENATOR MATZKE: I, personally, think there is some similarity, yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. I guess...and I was interested in your discussion a little bit ago, Senator Matzke, concerning the introduction of amendments. As I understand it now, with the passage of this rule, why the Speaker would be able to ascertain which amendments should be moved to the forefront, in front of other existing amendments, is that right?

SENATOR MATZKE: The Speaker would have the responsibility to schedule the amendments and could take them out of order, yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: He could. Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Matzke mentioned that our...his term "our elected leader". I don't consider the Speaker to be my leader. I don't have a leader. I don't follow any man or woman. The Speaker is put in that position as a director. And maybe the Speaker is the leader of everybody else. But not being a sheep, I don't need a shepherd. Each of us was elected, I would remind Senator Matzke, by the voters. And we were sent here, not to subjugate ourselves to the Speaker or to any clique, clack or special interest group. And some may feel that it is so necessary to hasten certain propositions through the body that they'll agree to these kinds of things. Senator Beutler talked about this being the only Legislature in the...that every other Legislature in the country has certain restrictions and so forth. Well, every other Legislature is a bicameral, and every other Legislature is partisan, so that argument helps our side rather than his. The idea that people can write amendments and motions faster than others not only goes to the tactics of legislating and should not be impeded, they might go to the rapidity with which a person can formulate an amendment or a motion. And because some are slow-footed and slow-witted, those of us who are not are to be restricted. But you cannot restrict the swift. So if the slow-footed and slow-witted decide to adopt these rules for the slow-witted, then we're just going to have the same types of battles at a different location on the battlefield. I'd like to ask Senator Will a couple of