

January 17, 1996

limit that prior rule. We limited the priority bill system rule. You'll see if you read through the rule, we went back on the priority bill system rule and amended that. We did not amend that section that gives the body the right to overrule the Speaker, and the body's right to do that pertains immediately upon the ruling of the Speaker. And what it pertains to depends upon what's in the Speaker's motion. If he rules with regard to one or two or three amendments, then whatever he has ruled on is subject to our overrule. If he ruled on ten at once, then that's subject to overrule. And I think that it would all operate quite cleanly in that manner. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens, yours is the only light on, do you wish to close or do you wish to speak? You wish to speak and then be recognized to close if no other lights come on.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: No, Mr. Speaker, I may, in fact, punch my light on one more time to speak before I close, so I have two times. I have not gone into the discussion I...I mentioned to Senator Beutler that I was not going to speak much and let others speak. And then, of course, Senator Beutler punched in all the times and everyone else did so I...I feel like I have to respond and I could not do it all in my closing. Senator Beutler, just a couple of comments. Number one, I have no idea what the concept of "dim-witted" or "slow-footed" has, that has nothing to do with this discussion. It's a nice emotional thing to get people all fired up and say, well, I'm not dim-witted, I think I should have a chance, and da, da, da, da, da. But it has nothing to do with the issue. The issue, colleagues, is not really the Speaker, it's not really...the issue is how quickly do you want to move. And if you want to really look to see where the problem is when you see we get...feel we get bogged down too much and Senator Beutler says that welfare and crime was a terrible thing. I don't think it was a terrible thing for the majority of senators who voted for it. I don't think it was a terrible thing for the thirty that voted for cloture. If it was a terrible thing for them, they wouldn't have voted for it. But if you really think there's an institutional problem, you know where the problem lies? It's within, it's us, it's the senators that are the problem. We want to leave at five o'clock to go to the social conflicts we have...or the gatherings we have. We want to go at 5:30 because we have some dinner engagement. And if people were really serious about defeating