

January 17, 1996

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...based on when the amendments are filed. But I hope you see from the discussion that we've had that in effect you're giving the Speaker carte blanche, which in practical terms cannot be challenged. You can make a perfunctory motion to overrule the order and it's voted down, and people in Senator Beutler's position will say, well the system worked because you were given the opportunity to be voted down. I'm talking about the practical aspects of politics with which we must deal and which I...with which I always deal. To be given a chance to make a motion that has no chance for success is a waste and something without any value.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, I'd like to yield my time to Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, just a couple points I was not able to make that I'd like to continue on just a little bit. This vote on this particular Section (c), if we would choose to vote again after we...if we choose to reconsider, this Section (c) has never been agreed upon by a majority of the Legislature. It simply was agreed upon by a majority of the Rules Committee to bring it forward to the Legislature. When I made a motion to strike, I did not have twenty-five votes. I think there were twenty-two or something like that there, and there were not twenty-five votes to accept, to pass, to say that they supported Section (c) as well. So the reconsideration, I believe, is a very appropriate thing when you're talking about a major policy shift within the nature of the Legislature, particularly since at no time in voting has there been any show of a majority approval. And it really is important. I wish these things weren't important. Every year we go through the things on rules and I wish we could just get through it. But in the...I understand and I think most people when they think back on the years they've been in the Legislature, we all know that the second year of a legislative two-year session is the most difficult, because there's so many things that are going to be...there's a finality to it all. It either gets passed or it doesn't. We're going to have the shenanigans of bills that