

January 17, 1996

bill, as the Speaker did on a deficit appropriation bill that we needed to get up and passed by a particular deadline, as the Speaker has...speakers have done in the past when it's really important and we then debate the issue as a body. That's what'll happen when we vote no. Nothing for the most part, will change except we will not transfer extra power to the Speaker.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President members of the body. I rise in support of the motion to suspend the rules and vote without further debate or amendment on...on the proposed rule change number six that we now have before us. I think that it's had a very thorough debate. Obviously we've considered a number of amendments. We've adopted several of them. I think everyone who has paid any attention at all to the debate surely understands what's in the proposal, what it would entail in general, and I think that we've reached a point where we ought to vote on it. So I would encourage you to support the rule suspension and support the adoption of rules proposal number six. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. I'd like to engage in a little short dialogue regarding how this rule would actually operate with Senator Withem, if Senator Withem would yield to a few questions.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Withem, would you respond.

SPEAKER WITHEM: I would.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Withem, as I understand how this rule would work, the Speaker would be able to designate up to, maybe not any, but up to five bills as very important issues and, with a two-thirds majority of the Executive Board concurring, those would then be so designated. That's the way that would work.

SPEAKER WITHEM: That's my understanding, yes.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. And if they were successful in completing their circuit of committee hearings and the committee saw fit to