

January 18, 1996

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Madam President, and I am not intending to disagree with those that have served for 18 years and have studied the rules to a lot greater extent than I have, but as I literally interpret the way this is written and what the purpose of the amendment that I filed on Section 17(b)(2) is that it, in fact, would be a partnership and it would be the Speaker and the committee chairperson that would have to set the hearing and/or work together on this. So part of the reason why this member was supportive of this was because of that partnership that was developed between the chairperson and the Speaker. And so I look at it from that perspective in that they would have to come to some agreement, and that one or the other would not have ultimate authority relative to this particular new rule or the bill that was in question relative to this rule change. So I look at it as a partnership in that there would have to be some agreement between the chairperson and the Speaker.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Madam President, I have an amendment. Senator Withem would move to amend the motion to adopt permanent rules. (See amendment found on page 293 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem to open on his amendment to the permanent rules.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yeah, I had originally withdrawn this amendment thinking there were others up there that would take more time and to give time to those. If we don't have other amendments up there, I'll go ahead and run this one. Hopefully, this is noncontroversial. If it becomes controversial, I'll be happy to pull it back. It is a clarification I think we ought to make because of the situation in which we were almost placed earlier this session. It turned out that we weren't, it didn't come into play, but it deals with the concept of the election of the Vice Chair of the Exec Board in case of a vacancy in that position. We were, I think, during the time when...you know, the thing that set this into effect, of course, was Senator Hall resigned, Senator Vrtiska, as Vice Chair, became acting Chair of the Exec Board. Senator Vrtiska was a contestant to be retained in that position as Chair of the Exec Board. Had he been elected, he would have...there would have been a vacancy in the