

January 18, 1996

Vice Chairmanship of the Exec Board. There were a number of senators who were speculating as to whether they would become candidates for that if that vacancy happened. We found, in reading the rules, that the current rules indicate that if there is a vacancy in the position of Vice Chair of the Exec Board that position was to be filled by the Exec Board, itself, among its own members. And I think most of us were surprised that that was in our rules. I think we visited with the Chair of the Rules Committee back in 1982, who proposed this, that was Senator Wesely, and he had indicated that this rule change... Senator Wesely, we are talking about the Vice Chairmanship of the Exec Board issue that we talked about earlier in the year, and I think Senator Wesely indicated that that rule change was made basically to deal with what happens if there is a vacancy during the inter'm. Most people I talked to thought that because the Vice Chair of the Exec Board is elected by the membership that the membership ought to be able then to fill the vacancy and there was an expectation that would do that. What this rule change does is it clarifies that the Legislature, itself, if there ever is again a vacancy in the Vice Chair of the Exec Board that the Legislature, itself, will make that determination, not the Exec Board, itself. The rule change is written on Journal page 293. Currently the rule says in the event there is a vacancy of the Vice Chairperson of the Executive Board, said vacancy shall be filled pursuant to Rule 3, Section 7(c). Rule 3, Section 7(c) says that the committee itself will make the determination as to who the Vice Chair is. What this rule change would do, it would say, if that happens during the interim then the Exec Board can fill that vacancy until the commencing of the next regular session of the Legislature, at which time the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot a vice chairperson of the Executive Board for the balance of the original term. So what this does is it puts the power of filling a vacancy of the vice chair of the Exec Board into the, into the hands of the Legislature itself. This is probably a rule change that is not... during my 13, 14 years here in the Legislature has ever come into play, it came... potentially would have been in play this year. It was not, did not need to worry about it, we may never have to worry about it again, but if there is a vacancy this will indicate how we will fill it.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers, to speak to the Withem amendment. Senator Wesely, to speak to