

January 18, 1996

SENATOR MAURSTAD: No, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I would like to ask Senator Lindsay a question and it is not to interrupt his discussion, but he is a chairperson. And, Senator Maurstad, the reason I am asking him this question, you have never been a chairperson so that is why I am asking a chairperson. Well I was many years ago and never will be again. Senator Lindsay, are you aware that bills are offered, heard by committees and some of these bills are not agreed to, I mean are not supported by a chairperson or members of a committee?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Oh sure.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are you aware of instances occurring where such a bill was scheduled at a later time in the session because of that disagreement?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Is it out of the realm of possibility that a chairperson and a speaker may disagree as to how promptly one of these declared bills should be set for hearing if there is this disagreement?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Certainly not with Speaker Withem, but it is well within the possibility for any other speaker.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Thank you. Members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler is too quick when there is a proposal he supports to say it is not likely that this problem will arise, but the fact that it occurred and we are discussing it shows not only can it arise, it will arise. I have had bills that were scheduled late, I had one that was going to, and I have a similar version before the Legislature this year, that would take away the state's right or power or authorization to invest funds in companies that produce tobacco products. It was scheduled way at the end of the session, I think it was before the Banking Committee, but I'm not sure, and I'm sure that was done because a request was made by the other side. Now I don't know that to be a fact, but I believe it was especially with the smiles, nods and winks that the lobbyists for the tobacco industry were giving. So this has happened in the past. It