

February 29, 1996 LB 943

made after the bill has been killed. That's what we're faced with here. The vote should be taken on the basis of what the rules say and what the set of circumstances are that the rule is being applied to. I always tell you all, when we're arguing about the rules, I lose, and when I don't vote to adopt the rules, because I don't like them, because the parts I wanted in were not put in, the parts I wanted taken out were not taken out. The only prerogative left to me...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is to cast a "no" vote to show my opposition. Once the rules are in place, I have to play by them and I do, even though people are irritated. Now we're being asked to disregard the plain import of the rule. If that is done, with the kind of session we have facing us, with bills before the Revenue Committee and other committees that might want to take some action on these bills that have been there for more than 20 days, we ought to give serious thought, not looking at the subject matter of the bill, but the institution of the Legislature. And I know you all hear me use that term so much you're probably tired of it. But even when I lose it's important that the institution maintain its integrity, so that when I am in a position to raise the issue...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...it will work for me, too.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. First thing I want to state is that Senator Stuhr is absolutely correct when she says she filed on good faith. There is no question about that. And I don't think personalities should enter into this. This is an issue that I think the body, at some point, is going to have to make a statement on which we will follow in the future. Hopefully it would be the precedent we set for the future. So what bill it comes on, who brings it is not, I don't think is relevant. So I would hope we could focus on what the issue is. And that issue has been framed certainly by Senator Withem, Senator Chambers, and Senator Stuhr, and myself on the motion itself. The question we have is, when does a committee lose the ability to act? Earlier on this session we had some