

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hudkins would like to have a short Executive Session of the Rules Committee right now underneath the north...or south balcony, excuse me; south balcony, right now, Rules Committee.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Smith, followed by Senators Engel, Schimek, Chambers, and Brown. Senator Smith, on the Schimek amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I rise in agreement with Senator Schimek, and I do so out of respect for the rules, protocol, and the need for a process that the public can be included in perhaps, but certainly all the members. And I think what is lacking is the reason why this happened instead of the reason why it did not happen. And, yes, I understand that the Reference Committee is the same as the Exec Board. If we have to get some words ironed out there to delineate the semantics there that's fine. But part of my concern comes from the fact that the Reference Committee is the exact same body as the Exec Board. The more people we can get involved in this process in a logistical manner the better off we are, rather than one committee keeping it for themselves, effectively, so as to perhaps accomplish an outcome that is very predictable and certainly territorial. I want to thank Senator Schimek for putting her foot down, so to speak, to say why is it that the Government Committee cannot look at those things that are traditionally referenced to the Government Committee and, not only out of tradition, but the need for a process that we can engage to arrive at good public policy? Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Engel, the Schimek amendment to Rule 3.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, oppose Senator Schimek's amendment. In listening to the debate so far...and that's a surprise, isn't it, Senator Schimek? But as far as...Senator Schimek did mention one thing as far as is it just the Government Committee that we are picking on, and that is not the case. I think, since I've been on the Executive Board and the Referencing Committee the last several years, I think we've been fair and impartial in everything we've done.