

January 8, 1993

who have not served on the Committee on Committees, it is not an easy job. You have very many conflicting interests and priorities, and more people wanting certain committees than are available, and others not wanting certain committees, and it is not an easy job. It is a difficult process. I know it may look and be very frustrating, it is that way inside the committee, as well. And, again, I am not a member of the committee this year, but I think the system works better when we make sure we work back through a process and allow us to evaluate the situation in a systematic fashion. I think that is what the motion is trying to do and I would support it. So I would ask for your support as well for the motion to refer back to committee, and I, too, have an interest in some of these motions, and hope that they will be dealt with positively, but I am willing to take my chances with the committee. I think they will be fair and I think that is the best way to deal with the problem.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. It has been interesting to hear those who have been on the committee who believe that they can solve some of these problems, but, Senator Withem, I do have a question for you that I thought of when you were speaking. You talked about the standard that the committee used when it decided who would be on committees, and I guess I am not aware of a standard that Committee on Committees uses. Could you enlighten me on that?

SENATOR WITHEM: In a very general sense I think I can, that the...first of all, as you know, there are three people from each caucus that are selected, and if I said a standard as if that implies that there is something written, that is not necessarily the case. The factors that go into it, I have been on it about three different times, factors that go into it are looking at the senator's interest, balancing committees somewhat, and I will be honest with you, sometimes committees are balanced for purposes of political perspective, geographic perspective. I know in one case we had a committee where six people from Omaha listed it as their number one choice, and I think that is one of the committees that is a problem. So there are a number of standards that are included. They are not written. It is a political process, as it should be. This is a political body and they are...it's more of an art form than it is a science.