

April 10, 1974

a magic date. If you will accept this amendment and you feel at the end of the day there ought to be another date, you're in perfect form to change the date. So I would like to proceed with the amendment and if Senator Syas wants to divide the question, then you have a perfect division. This is done in the spirit of cooperation. This is not done in the spirit of animosity. It's simply done so that we have a chance and are assured of a chance to take a look finally. This doesn't mean you have to override any bills. It's simply means that you have a chance to look at what's done and then you can proceed as you see fit. That's simply all it does.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I have a question in my mind. As the constitution now reads, the Governor may line item veto and this Body if it wishes to override cannot override...let's say, for example, six items are line item vetoed in a bill. This Legislature cannot override on two or three of the issues. It must take the bill in total. Now, if there are four or five appropriation bills, we may have 8, 10, 12 items that may be vetoed. Do we have sufficient time to make a good sound determination whether we ignore the veto on four issues, six issues and then pass the bill in total. I wonder if we're not squeezing ourselves into a box for lack of time for this Body to make a sound determination? And this would, say there should be some intervening time, but I'm not suggesting this. I'm throwing it out as a suggestion as one of the problems. For example, if the bill would come back late today, are we then ready to override in total or to accept the line item veto? I think this is something that must be taken into consideration.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I think the conversation this morning sums up the futility of trying to make a legislative process comprised of 49 people operate with the unanimity that you could have if you were dealing with one mind. It is going to be impossible to get enough votes to override all of the vetos that the Governor may issue. If he line items as Senator Burbach stated, I don't think this Body is going to override every...the entire series of line item vetos. We're wasting time. We'll come back on that day. It'll be a time when people will be frustrated and angry which I think it good. Some psychologists or something from Canada the other day said a proper amount of stress is fine, you need it to function. But the kind of stresses that happen in this Body result in action which I feel sometimes is somewhat irresponsible like trying to change the entire system of how we meet. Whether it's once a year or once every two years. Such drastic actions are sometimes recommended by this Body in response to momentary frustration. Now, when I get frustrated like I was yesterday, then I'll attempt to delay the Body but I'm not going to attempt to over turn the system itself so that it can not function at all. And Senator Stahmer quickly poured water on my fire by not allowing me to have any more Roll Call votes. Which is his right and his privilege under the rules they way they stand. But I think since this kind of situation is going to be upon us every single year that we meet, there comes a time when the consequences of our deliberate actions must be borne.