

March 19, 1974

SENATOR DUIS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Okay, next to speak is Senator Waldron, then Stahmer, Simpson, Johnson, Chambers, Syas and Nore. Senator Waldron has the floor. We're speaking on the amendment only now to the rule change.

SENATOR WALDRON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I had to rise in opposition to the amendment to the rule change. I've been here eight years in this Legislature, that's for better or for worse, depending on your point of view. But I've always felt and I always see in this Body that the Appropriations Committee felt that what they did in their committee was really more important and more binding than what action was taken in any other committee. I think this is the wrong attitude. I think the action of the Appropriations Committee should get the same treatment in this Body as action of any other committee. Now, if they...if you want to change the rules, Senator Duis, so it takes 25 votes to amend any amendment of any other committee, I will support that. I will help you there because we made that change a few years ago. I think a couple years ago, requiring the change from 18 votes to 25 votes, the amount of votes it takes to advance a bill from General File to E & R for Review so if you want to do that with all amendments, that's fine, Senator Duis. But why single out the Appropriations Committee? Why should we treat the Appropriations Committee as if they're special committee above and beyond what this legislative body can think of? First of all, what makes you think...what makes the budget committee members believe that they have better judgment than any other member in this Legislature? And by passing this amendment, that's what we're saying, and that's why I have to oppose this amendment. It is just not right. We have the right here in this Legislature to make changes in that budget if we can get a majority of elected members here to vote for those amendments. And I want that opportunity because I watched the budget committee and they're all good members and I've known them a long time and I like them all. And they do what they think is right. The many times they're not familiar with all the situations in the state and I've noticed that they've helped people who they feel need help and there's other members in this Body who would like to help others who we know understand their problems better. And I think we can do it--well, here on the floor. And I don't think this committee should be singled out as saying they have greater wisdom than all the other members in this Body and all the other committees.

PRESIDENT: Well, Senator Stahmer was next to speak, Senator Duis. I have a whole lineup of people. Do you...Senator Stahmer, do you want to yield the floor to Senator Duis?

SENATOR DUIS: I merely want to answer the question, if I might. You asked a question of me, I was wondering if I could answer the question that he asked because I believe he phrased it in a question. Senator Waldron, I did not propose this amendment. This amendment was brought to our committee by Senator Johnson. It was brought to us in this form. We had a hearing of which every member of this Legislature was aware of or should have been aware of because it was posted. It was in the Journal, it was announced and we had no one in that hearing who suggested any amendments to this particular piece of rule change. My suggestion to you if you suddenly or at some time have found out you wanted this different, it