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FLOOR DEBATE

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Hudkins, as Chair of the Rules Committee, would move to adopt the permanent rules for the Ninety-Seventh Legislature, Second Session. I do have a series of amendments and motions pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, the Rules Committee has met. I think you all had on your desks, oh, a week or so ago, the original set of proposals and, since then, the Rules Committee met again to refine those just a little bit. We do appreciate all of the members of the body, who introduced rules proposals, for their input. We did meet as a committee and, although all of these rules will be fine in their own right, we felt that we should probably put together a set that overall would do the best good. So that is what we have done. We have advanced two proposals. You have received a hard copy of those, as well as an e-mail copy, over the...Friday and over the weekend, so hopefully we are ready to discuss those at this time, namely the two proposals that the committee has advanced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, with respect to the adoption of permanent rules, Senator Hudkins, as Chair of the Rules Committee, would offer Committee Proposal number 1. (Legislative Journal page 160.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Hudkins, you're recognized to open on that change.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Again, you all should have a copy of this. The first proposal has to do with changing cloture. I don't think it's necessary that I read it to you, you all know how to read, but we have made some changes. Before, it was necessary for there to be eight hours of debate before anything could be attempted to get on with the voting. We have decided that some bills may need eight hours of debate; some bills may need more than that; and other bills don't need eight hours, so we have totally eliminated the time