

SENATOR MURPHY: Well, it's simply that under our rules we require an A bill for any expenditure in excess of fifty thousand to accompany each bill through each stage of consideration. There are fiscal notes in here, some in diverse and in conflict that would indicate as much as two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and I find no A bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The rule that we're talking about is on Page 26.

SENATOR MURPHY: I think to say that the Appropriations Committee will be required to appropriate the funds certainly applies to each of our agencies year after year, but this is a creation of a cost at least as set forth by our fiscal staff.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, I'm not in a position to comment on the impact of the cost with the Committee amendment. I assume that it undoubtedly reduces the fiscal notes, and the fiscal notes are not updated as a matter of procedure until Committee amendments are accepted or rejected, and at that point they are then revised and if an A bill is required or isn't required, usually that decision follows. I think as a matter of practice we have sometimes advanced bills from General File and discussed them even knowing that there was an A bill they had to follow, but they were held up either at Select File and most certainly always on final reading till the A bill caught up. I would assume, as a practical matter, we almost need to consider Committee amendments and accept and reject them so that the staff can make a proper estimate of any cost of that bill. You know, I can make the same comment on the bill that we previously discussed. I think the Committee amendments in that case did add a cost, although it was stamped no cost, which was correct as introduced. So I would suggest, I guess, Mr. President, that we ought to act on bills, and they need to be in some form on General File or even if they're advanced so that there is a basis on which the staff can make an estimate of the cost of that legislation as amended.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Then if I understand your comments correctly, it simply is that action needs to be taken on General File so that we then can determine whether or not this should be an A bill.

SENATOR WARNER: The rule is pretty clear. It says A bill shall follow through all stages of consideration, but in order to arrive at the cost of this bill, the Committee amend-