

January 15, 1981

the most serious time this Legislature has had as far as I am concerned in the thirty years I have been around here. We invite chaos, remember that. Therefore, I must rely upon the Legislature to provide me with a sense of direction as to how we can best proceed. However, I believe it is my responsibility to provide you with alternative courses. After the introduction of new bills, agenda #4, we will proceed to the rules. It is my intention to recognize Senator Wesely to make a motion to which I will not at the moment entertain amendments. If you want to challenge that, that is up to you. It is open. I am here at your pleasure, but I am here because I think it is absolutely necessary that I say these things at the moment. That motion which Senator Wesely will make will be to adopt the rules that we have considered and amended as our permanent rules. Does anybody in this room think we have permanent rules? We have got two permanent rules, one is the five-day extension proposition, and the other one is the limitation of bills as far as committee is concerned. Now you have a Rules Committee which is part of the machinery of this Legislature. You have a Rules Committee to handle the rules. We do not need to make the rules as a committee as a whole. We have a procedure. We are not using it and we are inviting chaos. Recent amendments to the proposed rules amount to an attempt to write the rules on the floor. Senators have relied upon the rules thus far adopted for bill introduction and this concept should not be changed when over half the time for introduction has passed. Take a look this morning when we get to this part of the agenda. See how many bills come in. See how many bills have come in recently. Why is this? Ask yourself this question? Why is this? There will still be an adequate opportunity for anyone wishing to further amend the rules to do so through the process spelled out in the rules and in conjunction with the Rules Committee. Without the adoption of permanent rules the entire matter of bill introduction, committee hearings and our calendar are uncertain. The whole system that you and I have pledged to support is being jeopardized. If this session is to achieve anything, we must proceed today with a set of adopted permanent rules. If you don't like those permanent rules, you have the perfect right to go before the mechanism that is set up for this purpose, the Rules Committee. Remember, I make this in this tone only because I respect the institution and respect those of you who make the sacrifice to come here like the rest of us do. Now with that in mind, the Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature,