

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman, can I yield back to Senator Haberman. Out of all due respect and courtesy I appreciate it very much but I'd certainly respect any comments you'd have to say and really be grateful to know what they are before I say anything. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Haberman, the floor is yours.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, I'm just going to repeat what I said earlier, that regardless of who the chairman of the Appropriations Committee is, I feel it is imperative that he be a full voting member of the Retirement Committee. Now, quite possibly, two years ago I would not have stood up here and made that statement. I would not have stood up here and defended the Retirement Committee because I wasn't on the Retirement Committee and I had no knowledge, no knowledge whatsoever as to what the Retirement Committee did, with the exception when they came to the legislative floor with bills and the chairman or whoever got up and explained why it was a good bill and everybody else, including myself, I'll use my own self here, said, boy, that's complicated, that's awfully complicated. I'm sure glad the committee has an actuary; I'm sure glad that they met with these people; I'm sure glad back in the old days they used to meet at night from seven to nine-thirty; I'm sure glad they did that; if that's what they are going to recommend, I'll go along with it. But I'll tell you, folks, after being on that committee two years, especially in Senator Warner's position as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, quite frankly, I need him. I need his wisdom, I need his say, I need everything that he projects into that committee. Now we don't always agree with Senator Warner, however, all of his testimony has been good testimony and things that we didn't know, hadn't thought of. Now I appreciate the fact that maybe some day Senator Warner won't be here. I don't know when that is going to be because he could probably live another 30 years and still be in the Legislature, but, however, it will be just as important then to have the chairman of the Appropriations Committee as a full-fledged member of the Retirement Committee and I ask for your support to this amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Lynch.