

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Chairman and members, you know this is a...a few minutes ago the chairman buzzed me because I had a minute to go. You know that's the first time I think I...since I've been in the body that I talked that long, so I apologize for that. Usually you can't learn nothing talking, so I try not to say too much. But the argument that Senator Haberman says is the need for somebody on the committee that knows what is happening, and that is appropriate. I have no problem with that at all. Of course, that is also the responsibility of the chairman and the members of the committee to know what is going on as well and I guess you can get advice from anybody, anytime, anywhere, if you want it. The one that is on the committee as ex officio and handy enough for that, that's okay too. When you talk about what we need though, remember that this budget, this amount of money is not just ours. Every dollar in there is matched by employees, it is matched by teachers, it is matched by state patrol, it is matched by judges, it is matched by state employees, it is matched by county employees, so you know if you're talking about oversight and if you need somebody in expertise, maybe you ought to think about that and maybe we ought to change it again. The reason we didn't recommend that it be a standing committee is because of that confusion who obviously caused, we're trying to reorganize the days and the Committee on Committees responsibility about who should serve on what committee and fill out the days, so we didn't do that. I think this is important but it is not that important that we have to have any single person on the committee at all. I think the recommendation made by the Rules Committee is ultimately fair. It is, obviously, not intended to recognize one degree of competence for one chairmanship as against the other at all. It is certainly nothing personal, just good policy. It identifies the responsibility with the committee and its members and they should know what is going on. I'd like to simply suggest that the way it was originally introduced to you without the amendment is the way the rule change should pass and I would simply recommend that you vote against the amendment in its present form.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. There are no other lights on. Senator Warner, would you care to make a closing statement?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, like everybody, or several comments that have been made and I want to say this, too, right off the bat, and I'm saying it because I mean it, and that is, this is not personal with me. And as much