

future, makes it important that those bills receive the same kind of public notice, public ability to attend those hearings and that it fall into the slot as a standing committee. I think we have been moving in this direction, at least the four years that I have been here I have noticed that there has been more and more impetus put on the Retirement Committee as we have dealt with those issues on the floor. I think that this amendment offered by Senator Haberman is just a natural progression in that...to that end, and I think it makes very good sense for us to do that and do that so that it is laid out in the future so that we can adjust for it, plan the committee structure for 1991 so that Retirement can become a full-fledged standing committee. I would support Senator Haberman's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Additional discussion on the Haberman amendment? Senator Wesely, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members, I would like to just make a couple of comments and first commend Senator Lynch and the other co-sponsors of this bill who, I don't recall who all they are, but Senator Lynch, in particular, for raising this issue. As a former chairman of the Retirement Committee though, Senator Withem may have had a lapse of memory since we had some experiences over there. Senator Harris preceded Senator Haberman and Senator Fowler preceded me and all of us have had the joy of trying to do business over lunch and in the evenings and snatching every minute of time you can between other assignments, and I think this whole issue by Senator Lynch and the other members on this bill is a good one because the Retirement Committee is an important committee and it really hasn't had the attention it needs and this bill is providing some of that discussion. I think Senator Haberman's amendment makes sense. It ought to be a standing committee and, in fact, we ought to look at the possibility of giving it a day or some sort of circumstance where it can not have to snatch lunch hours and evenings to do the work that they do. That makes sense. Now that gets into a complication that I don't know that we're ready to deal with with this bill. I guess Senator Lynch, as the chairman of the Rules Committee, might be able to handle it or look at it. I don't know how we go from here, but I just do argue as we get done with this piece of legislation and eventually make the changes I think are going to be made, the next logical question is, do they get a day, how do we fit it in, what sort of arrangement needs to be made in this regard?