

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I...I don't know if I rise...I'm somewhat like Senator Coordsen (sic) somewhat neutral, because whatever happens here on this particular constitutional amendment won't probably affect me anyway. But I have often heard people complain about being here, that we're here too long and we're tired and wore out and shouldn't be here. And I guess my criticism of the system is that if you don't want to be here, why have you been running for the offices. I mean, we're elected by people that work here to make a commitment to those people to pass the laws, to help them with constituent services and it seems to me that, quite frankly, with the workload that we have more days, not less, it would seem to be more appropriate. There are a lot of problems facing this state and this country and it doesn't seem appropriate that we would try and frivolize the situation by saying the problems will go away if we just don't meet as many times or as many days. Well, I don't think that's going to be the case at all. I think that we're going to recognize that as more and problems, whether it's natural resource issues, whether it's tax issues, especially since this Legislature has the power to set the taxes of the state, that a lot of these issues are not going to go away just because we're not here. And it seems to me that it would be more appropriate to go in the opposite direction, not to lessen the number of days that we work but rather lengthen the number of days we work, especially in a 60-day session, because it just seems to me here we are less than...or a little over half-way through and we, quite frankly, have gotten very little done this session. And so, yes, Frank, you're right, we do have a tendency to procrastinate. We sit around and we think, well, we can handle those problems tomorrow. And especially with the public hearing process that we have in this body, only working three hours a day on the floor for half-way through the session, you don't get much done. And so either change that system or add some extra days to the session so that we can get some things in the afternoons other than public hearings would seem to be appropriate as well. I guess I...I guess going to 70-70 is not bad but, you know, I get a little frustrated hearing people complain about being here and I have often wondered why anyone would run if they don't want to serve.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, I have a little problem with the organizational period of time and I guess it sounds good that we could be more efficient and force