

January 14, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK: Rules Committee amendment number two is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Lynch, as Chair of the Rules Committee, would offer committee amendment number three. (Third Rules Committee amendment is on pages 163-64 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, for some time there has been some concern on the part of a lot of people, some, no concern on the part of others. In any case, it was obvious that this, during the session, we'd probably discuss some kind of language in the rules that would provide for some of those concerns. What this particular rule change does is accomplish that. I must tell you that what you see before you now is completely different from what originally was discussed in some ways. It's obviously improved, and hopefully, it's my understanding, that there is some understanding between the Appropriations Chairman, the new Appropriations Chairman and the Rules Committee regarding these changes. I would like to point out that on page 2, the amendments to Rule 8, Section 4, are described. There are actually five changes. Only four are identified on your list, and I'll explain the fifth. The first change is the underlined language, the fourth line down from the top in Section 4. It simply provides that a review of the budget request by any agency of the state shall not be held until the Appropriations Committee has held its public hearings on that agency, board or commission. The reason for this, and any member of the Appropriations Committee who also wants to add any...I mean of the Rules Committee wants to add their...please, I will relinquish any time you would like. The reason for this is obvious. It would be helpful for the Standing Committee to know, along with the Appropriations Committee, what may be presented after the Appropriations Committee consideration, to the body. The Standing Committees, for years, have met with citizens in the state to talk about what they think are important changes in the law. They meet with citizens to talk about ideas that they may have about change, or programs that they think should exist. To be completely frank, it seemed rather silly to me, in the past, that these Standing Committees would meet and talk about these things, but never really know for sure, in some cases, what we were already doing, or in fact what it really cost, whether or not we could afford any of these new thoughts, ideas, dreams, wishes, plans or programs. So, it