

January 14, 1991

prefer to do it that way than the way we presently do it, where what has usually happened in the past is you've had nine committee members spend the day explaining the budget basically to ourselves, because the other 40 members have better things to do than listen to us, quite often. I think that's unfortunate. This way we can talk to a committee that really has interest. Then if a committee has a particular amendment that they want to draft up, they can do that. And they can draft that amendment with the help of the Fiscal Office and with the understanding of what it is the committee had in mind. And then, quite honestly what happened then is that we could better manage what's going on; we could, when we start debating the bill, we would have the Appropriations Committee amendments adopted or dismissed first, then the Standing Committee amendments...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...would come after that. And did you say time, or did you say one minute, Senator Baack? One minute, okay.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: I can finish in one minute then. I apologize for taking too long. But the question is, will this spawn more amendments? I don't know. I, in my own opinion, I guess, think probably not because most of those amendments have been coming, in recent years, in the form of individual members requests. And this way you have a hearing in front of a Standing Committee, you get...for one thing it's important to the process, at least we get the amendment drafted properly, and then you get an idea of how many Standing Committee amendments are out there, what the total cost would be. And then when we begin the budget deliberations, we can talk in earnest, and everybody has a clearer picture of what is down the road. So, as I said, I mean I could live just fine and dandy if we didn't have any changes. But I actually think this change is remain...it allows the appropriations process to remain intact, and while at the same time it allows the appropriations process some additional exposure to the various Standing Committee...Committees of interest, and also will have some more formal proceedings to go through as we draft budget bill amendments on the floor.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING