

January 14, 1991

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, Mr. President.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Senator Lynch. I have a question. Last week you informed me that we would receive these rules not later than Friday, and we get them today to vote on them today. Could you explain to me as to why we just got them this morning.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yes, I'll be pleased to, and thank you for the question. As you all know, we offered an opportunity, before we developed any final language, to anybody who was interested, to come to an informal meeting on Friday afternoon at one-thirty, and no one showed up. Immediately following that we did have informal discussions, at that time. When I say no one showed up, I apologize, Senator Moore showed up and a number of others, to help us discuss these rules changes. But, on the other hand, we could not take final action, Senator Haberman, until after we had finished that informal discussion. We felt it, in fact, an obligation of ours not to write rules and presume anything, as far as the body was concerned, of course, until today when we have a formal debate on the issue.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator,...

SENATOR LYNCH: When we finished our informal business on Friday, we immediately adopted the permanent rules. They were put into writing, and at that time, since everybody was gone, we thought about putting these rules changes in everyone's boxes, Senator Haberman. But we decided, rather than do that, since we knew it would be coming up this morning, we put them on the desk for your review this morning. So, I apologize that you didn't have them earlier than this, but we had to give the opportunity to the body at the informal hearing. On Friday afternoon that was the only time the schedule permitted us to do it.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Lynch, how was the meeting of the Rules Committee announced?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch, do you yield?

SENATOR LYNCH: Well, I'm not quite sure. I understand it was announced from the floor. The informal hearing, I know, was announced to the body from the podium. I think we discussed it a number of times, informally, with a number of groups. But to