

January 14, 1991

committee amendment number four. (Rules Committee amendment number four is on pages 164-65 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, this is the last of the four rules recommendations. First of all, I'd like to, before we describe the rules change, what I think should be read, and I can get that done within the five minutes, indicate that none of us likes to consider how we should, or whether we should at all limit debate. However, as you know, during the last session and other sessions I can remember there has been considerable discussion on the floor, during some emotional discussions, that there should be something in place that helps us develop a process by which whatever we can accomplish can be, or want to accomplish can be, or shouldn't accomplish can be, as the case might be. To be completely frank, there was also debate about whether or not we should even consider a rule change such as this until a crisis exists again. I think it was generally concluded that we should offer a recommendation early on in the session and take time to discuss it to see whether or not you would agree that we should, in fact, adopt this particular rule. It has to do with cloture. So, let me read this to you. Excuse me. It's to amend Rule 7 by adding new Section 10 to read as follows, and I'll read it quickly. "At any stage of consideration the principal introducer of the bill under consideration, a co-introducer with the consent of the principal introducer, or the chairman of the committee," because it could be a committee bill, "if the bill is introduced by that committee, may move for a cloture to the presiding officer after eight hours of debate on the bill at that stage of consideration," by that I mean General, Select or Final Reading, "except that the appropriation bills introduced by the Appropriations Committee shall be subject to a cloture motion after twelve hours of debate at that stage of consideration. The presiding officer shall immediately recognize such introducer or chairperson and shall then order debate on the pending amendment or motion to (cease. A vote on such pending amendment or motion shall) be taken immediately. Following the vote on such pending matter, a vote on the cloture motion shall be taken. A two-thirds majority of the elected members shall be required for the cloture motion to be successful." Thirty-three votes. "A motion for cloture shall be in order except while a member is speaking, and a motion for cloture is not debatable. If the motion for cloture is successful, a vote on the