

March 13, 1991

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Madam Chair, members of the body, I'm probably going to make some comments and then ask Senator Moore some questions about the procedures, not about the contents of the bills. I have had a concern as a legislator, from time to time, that we'll look at the Appropriations bills as they come in, and make a suggestion that maybe some money that they're recommending be spent not be spent and to try to get an amendment adopted to take a program out of the...out of the Appropriation bill. I'm somewhat concerned by how this practice of introducing a bill directly to General File after the committee hearings have taken place puts people on the floor at somewhat of a disadvantage. The normal practice, using an Education Committee bill as an analogy, a bill will be introduced, if the Education Committee thinks that there needs to be changes in that after hearing the bill, they will bring it to the floor in committee amendment form and will have to get 25 votes to put their change into the bill. When the Appropriations Committee suspends the rules and introduces a bill directly to General File, then the burden of making any change of what the Appropriations Committee wants is on the introducer, the member of the body to get the 25 votes. I can see everybody here is really thrilled about this particular problem, but later on in the session it may, in fact, be one. We talked about this to a fair extent in Rules Committee about a way of dealing with this problem and it was my understanding that we had some type of gentle person's agreement that we were going to be using some type of bill that had already been introduced and used the Appropriations Committee's recommendations as amendments to that. Now I recognize this is the deficit bill and it may be slightly different. But, Senator Moore, has the committee given any thought to that process that we talked about when the mainline bill comes along as to whether we're going to be asked at that time to suspend the rules and introduce a bill directly to General File? Or will the Appropriations Committee's recommendations come to us in the form of amendments to a bill that had already been introduced?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Senator Withem, the answer would be to your question if the committee had given it any thought, the answer would probably be, no, as we haven't discussed it. I can only speak to my viewpoint as Chairman. The issue that we discussed early in the session on the rules, I said I didn't