

affected from the floor by this same kind, by this same kind of amendment to the amendment. That had to do with, as I understand it, and Pat's checking it out to make sure I'm correct now, that had to do, among other things, with placing the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee on the Executive Board, whoever that was, from whatever district he may come, or she might come from. Just think about that. It obviously recognizes the importance of the committee, but also cranks into the day-to-day administration of this state someone, whoever that might be, who serves as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Now, that's certainly a departure, isn't it, from almost anything. Why isn't, in fact, the chairman of every committee an ex officio member of the Appropriations Committee? Why then was that possible to happen and now we can't consider, in principle, the same kind of a thing? You know it was mentioned that we're trying to load committees. We're not trying...we can't load anything. If you're from the Second Congressional District, you don't even have a gun, so let's not use that argument about loading any committees. All we want to do is simply draw attention to the fact that on an important committee, such as Appropriations, there is certainly no reason, especially since it's a 9-person committee, that we don't consider this kind of fairness and in fact equity. I would, I guess, be concerned. I guess none of you will fault me, and some of the rest of us from our caucus, for trying this issue one more time. It's certainly not appropriate. You had to have your tongue in your cheek if you said that we shouldn't be doing this, if we're on the Rules Committee, and if it failed, try it on the floor. How many times has anybody, has everybody, probably around here, tried something on the floor that they really felt serious about and they felt was important, so important to the people they represent that they tried the hardest they can. That's all we're doing. I'm sure if the shoe were on your foot and you had to be concerned with this issue, you might be doing the same thing. The process, the appropriate process is only as we see it. And we can find all kinds of reasons to avoid the responsibility we have to be fair with each other. And I've heard a couple of reasons already on the floor this morning that sound good, but in your hearts you know just don't wash. You didn't give us the chance when we tried to do it the way you said we should, and now you're saying we shouldn't do it at all now. You'll have to weigh that. Hopefully, it won't have any serious effect on us for a long time to come. But as far as the people in the Second Congressional District are concerned, it's something they have