

tax proposal can have a fair but fairly short hearing and, at the same time, get on to other bills. As you know, if you divide the question and then this question would be subject to further division, if we go down that path, we will be going down a path that will have many, many byways and take much, much time. And so it was the wish of the people who are interested in this bill that we not take all of your time that way, because we all have other interests. So the path that you and I can take, if you want to allow the people interested in this bill an up or down vote on it, the path that we can take involves three procedural steps from our point of view, just three steps, one, two, three, and a final vote. And the first step is to overrule the Chair on the division of the question so that the matter cannot be divided. That would be the first step and would prevent the endless division of the question. The second step then would be to take up the motion, which is filed, to suspend the rules and to adopt the amendment without further debate or amendment. That's step two. The third step then is to take up the second suspension of the rules motion and vote on the bill as opposed to the amendment, without further debate or amendment. One, two, three and a vote on the bill. All of these steps are procedural. That doesn't mean that we can't and shouldn't debate and talk about, to a great extent, the substantive provisions of the bill. We can do that along this path. And that doesn't mean, and I wouldn't ask that the opponents of the bill not file any other motions. They will have their opportunity to discuss the bill also along this path if they wish to file a motion to indefinitely postpone, if they wish to file a motion to bracket. But what I would ask of the opposition, fairness...in the interest of a fair hearing, is that they limit their procedural motions to three or four too. And then we can have a debate that will extend over five or six procedural motions and be done with the matter and, in the meantime, have some fair discussion on the substance of the bill. If the bill...if you should see fit to advance the bill, it will be there over the weekend. It will be there over Friday. You will have plenty of opportunity to think about it and on Final Reading you can vote it up or you can vote it down. There will be plenty of opportunity for the lobbyists and others interested in the bill to point out sections of it to you that they may think may be inadequate or excessive or whatever, but you will have an opportunity for a settled and reasoned and thoughtful judgment on the matter. I know it's hard to ask for a controlled debate and it's...and it's hard to get people to agree to that. But I hope you would agree that this kind of a