

because at that point in time, once this final step is done, the Legislature really has no additional space needs, unless we have additional members that come to the body, and that, as you know, will take a constitutional change, there will not be a problem with regard to the space issue, there should not be. Our hearing rooms are taken care of with the Capitol Renovation Projects, everything is in place except for this one final piece of the puzzle. And that needs to happen, and I believe with this amendment folks will begin to work together and we'll get this accomplished, we'll lay out a plan, we will work with all the parties involved. It will not be an issue where the Executive Board runs over the top of any other entity of government that happens to be in the building, but we will acquire the space necessary to take care of those additional needs that we presently have. With that, I appreciate the willingness to substitute the amendment and offer it for its adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Hall. On the Hall amendment, for discussion, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, I'd like to support the Hall amendment. When Senator Wesely and Senator Landis and I came into the...first came into the Legislature we were put up in the tower, on the ninth floor, all crowded together with our staff, couldn't make it down for the votes on time. I suppose there are a number of you here who would like to go back to that old system. (Laughter.) But we didn't like it all that much. And later when I became Chair of the Executive Board I had the same experience that Senator Hall is having, you just don't get anything...you just don't get anything until you've hassled it for a year or two, and then even maybe even then you don't get it. And there's no reason that we should be in this bickering process with others. We have a right to our own resources, to our own staff, to our own space. We should...I mean we clearly should not give in, in terms of providing to ourselves the kinds of working conditions that help us do the job right, especially since we have so many adverse conditions the way things are in terms of trying to get things done rapidly. Right now I think many of you can feel that. And so when I was Chair of the Executive Board what I did was simply filed the same bill Senator Hall has filed, and then negotiations speeded up real rapidly, and then I'd withdraw the bill. But it seems that there's no point in doing that anymore, the problem continues, and it seems to me to make some sense.