

January 10, 1996

What I am proposing number (2) then would read, "take action, including voting to advance the measure with or without amendments to the full Legislature, voting to indefinitely postpone the measure, or taking a vote on the measure that does not result in the measure's advancement or indefinite postponement. Committee action as defined above must be taken by a date certain as determined by the Speaker." Then I would add by this amendment, "and committee chairperson."

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you. I have no problem with this amendment to the amendment. I guess my problem is with the rule change in total. I found little to make me think we should make this change. I think in the past our Speaker has the ability to special order bills now, and I'm not sure that...I guess I wonder how many Speakers would like to be able to have this much definition over the whole process. I'm not going to be able to support...I'll be able to support this amendment of Senator Maurstad's, but I'm not going to be able to support the rule change as a whole. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Bromm on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I rise to support the Maurstad amendment. I think that's a good drafting change that Senator Maurstad has come up with and so I hope the body will see fit to approve it. I'm going to take just a couple more minutes of my time to elaborate a little bit more on the discussion on the rule proposal. It's been said many times, I've heard many senators say and people on the Rules Committee have said we should do the rule changes at the end of the session because we have such...I think we tend to forget the frustration that we experience two-thirds of the way through the session or seven-eighths of the way through the session. We come down to the end and I hate to talk about specific proposals, but I can't forget the effort that went into the crime bill last session and how we got down to the end and we had...we did not have enough time to thoroughly examine that bill and all the amendments that were proposed. So we went through some rather significant procedural gymnastics to try to get issues onto the bill that we felt needed to be addressed in the bill. And that...some of that occurred at eleven, ten or eleven o'clock at night. When we got all done, there was a significant point made that maybe the whole thing was