

legislation, our big legislation, if we think about it, it doesn't get done until the pressure comes, that's when the compromises are forced and those types of things. So the question is then, do we have a need for this lengthy session? My primary concern was that we can prohibit, effectively, people...qualified people from serving in this body if we go so far into the year that it effectively prohibits them from holding another job. That has probably been a, I can tell you it's certainly been a consideration for people on this floor. And I would bet it's a consideration for people out there thinking, should I challenge a particular senator here for election? Do I have the...but can I take that time? For the really big money that we make, is it...is that enough to fund somebody who has a family to support, kids to support or whatever? Or is this something that we should eat up so much of the year that it has to become a primary source of income, or where it has to become a primary employment? And that's where my concern came from, and that was the idea, to try to shorten that up a little bit, to make it a little bit easier for people who have other livelihood to serve. We all know our problems that we run into here trying to perform our other jobs while being down here, last year into almost the middle part of June, and that's a concern. When we talk about the Wesley amendment, that, I think, adds to the concept, or at least I should say the Wesley concept adds to what's trying to get done, that's to make those early days more productive. By having an organizing session in December that is limited to rule-making or adopting the rules, to introducing bills, to electing leadership, those types of things I think are very good. You then have three or four weeks of the public having access to bills before they're scheduled for committee hearings in the first part of January. You have...you don't have the distraction of ten days of debate on rules prior to or at the beginning of that session. You can kind of hit the ground running when that long session starts up. So the concept, I think, is right. Now there will be a separate... I have an amendment that's coming up a little bit later that does two things, and the more I think about it I'll probably divide that question so we can vote on them. But one is that it would shorten the sessions further and make them each 65-day sessions; and the other is that it would add specifically a 3-day organizing session in December, and that's to, again, put a limit...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.