

SENATOR VRTISKA: January the fifth, or whatever date it is, and then take up the session.

SENATOR WESELY: Right.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I think, unless I'm more confused than I think I am, I think I can support that kind of proposal. And I guess I just have one other comment, and I hope Ernie doesn't take this in the wrong way, but he talked about wasting time. I think this piece of paper he sent around a long...a while ago was probably the biggest waste of time I've seen in a long time. I don't know what it's supposed to mean. Looked to me like some foolishness. Oh, you'll explain it. Well, I hope you're able to and that it does make sense, which right now it doesn't appear to make any sense. With that, I'll close. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I haven't spoke yet this session, but in this area I wanted to reiterate something that Senator Chambers had said, and that is when we come down here to serve, our job is to serve and not let the staff run the offices. There is some concern that happened just before the Legislature went into session this year about some of the staff doing some things that were taking over, and really caused some phone calls in my office. But...and it's nothing. I think we've got excellent staff and I'm not picking on the staff. But I think the people do vote us to come down here. And when we run for office, that's part of the bite we take. We know what we're going to get paid, we know what the days are, and if we don't then we probably didn't research it very well. And I agree with Senator Warner, the business we have, if we don't get it done now how are we going to get it done with less days? There is some concern there. And I, personally, am not going to vote for the bill either because I don't think we get done now what we need to get done, and cutting them days off short.... And I do believe it's our job to be here. Some cases you'd believe how many offices close down when we leave here. That's scary. But I think when we're here we need to be here and do that representation, at least that's the way I feel about it. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Schimek.