

look at it, I'm not necessarily concerned and I'm never concerned about having discussion on an amendment. I...I think that's always doable. And it's only because I remember doing this a number of years ago where I basically asked, in this case I asked to substitute an amendment so it could come in ahead of the suspension motion and then that was agreed to. Senator Abboud's not asked to substitute, but asked if he could maybe have his amendment prior to the suspension motion that would be there. But I then, once I got the amendment substituted, divided it 22 ways. And then the fight became whether I should be able to do it 22 ways and so we never got, for the next two years, we never got beyond how many divisions there should be and that particular bill stalled for two years. In fact, by the time it was over, it was stalled for three years before Senator Lindsay finally took over control and was able to work with both sides, offered...agreed to some amendments and then it advanced. So I think there needs to be an understanding that if we're trying to get a discussion and we're not trying to just go until noon where the agenda breaks and we just want to make sure that we don't get to a vote today, you know, I have some concerns about that. If it's to offer the amendment and then the division of the amendment takes place with the idea they don't want to get to a vote on this because at noon we change, I have very...there's no reason for us to agree to that. I would also propose that if there's some doubt on the Chairman of Education's side or others that it's always still, if the body votes any bill to Final Reading, and I know the body understands it's more difficult, but there still is adequate time for those to argue the case, say where they believe the bill is wrong, say where they believe is a big mistake, by striking the enacting clause, asking it to be returned for an amendment, knowing probably that that won't happen but there will be adequate room for both sides to plead their case before it gets to a vote. And so if Senator Abboud is feeling that his amendment won't be favorably approved but he wants to get to a discussion, I would rather us, for the most part, if we can get to a time agreement where we would get to a vote on both sides and we'd be able to move on, do the suspension and then move on, I wouldn't be concerned with that. If it's just to keep us till noon, yeah, I have some real problems with that at this point when the discussion can still take place on Final Reading. So those are my thoughts at this particular time, Madam Chairman, and I thank you.