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CLERK: Mr. President, the second change, as proposed by the Rules Committee, involves...is noted as committee proposal number two, again found on page 84 of your Journal. It would amend Rule 5, Section 4; and Rule 8, Section 2. Senator, this is the proposal dealing with introduction of legislation by the Appropriations Committee.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Hudkins to open on rules change proposal number two.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Wehrbein came, on behalf of the Appropriations Committee, with this proposal, and rather than my trying to explain it, I would prefer that he do that because he has the technical knowledge as to why the Appropriations Committee feels this change is necessary. So I would give my time to Senator Wehrbein.

SPEAKER BROMM: You're yielding your opening...remainder of your opening time to Senator Wehrbein. Is that correct? Senator Wehrbein, you have...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, this is a proposal that is coming from the Appropriations Committee via the Rules Committee, and it's simply in these times of crisis, if you will, and I suppose that's a subjective analysis as to whether we're in a crisis or not. I think many of us believe that we're very close to that, if not in one, in terms of our budget. This particular proposal would allow more flexibility, via a rule change, to allow the Appropriations Committee to introduce bills up until we had the preliminary report that, if you historically remember, happens in approximately late February. If you recall, we submit that, the Appropriations Committee submits that preliminary report as to the...what our thinking is on the budget at that early time. Our thinking was, in this particular...these particular times, when it's very difficult to know how the whole budget is going to fit together and when obviously we're going to be making many cuts, that the ability to make some changes as late as possible in the process, if you will, would be very beneficial. That is, we're doing it now in ten days. This would allow an additional