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January 10, 2005

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Good morning. Welcome back for our first full day. I would appreciate your attention for a few moments, because I'm going to address things that relate to your lives and your days. Mr. President, I do want to thank you for your generosity with your time in presiding. It's very helpful. I think we ought to acknowledge that Chuck Hubka and his many people who helped him have accomplished 24 moves. And I am reliably informed that we have everyone in their assigned office and everyone telephone. I think that's important, in terms of our getting organized. It's a little difficult without those things. will continue to convene at 11:00, of course, we did today, tomorrow, Tuesday, and Wednesday. On Thursday, we will convene at 9:00. That is necessary in order that we receive the budget bills from the Governor, and that we maintain a schedule that relates to--more than you want to know--leased telephone lines and press conferences and a lot of other things. nevertheless, and we will begin... I have conferred with Senator Hudkins, Chair of the Rules Committee, and we will begin the debate and consideration on the rules on Thursday at 9:00. Friday, we will convene at 10:00. And that's my attempt to be good to us and to also allow enough time on Friday to see how things go. And if we don't have a lot of rules consideration and so on, then we could adjourn at 11:00 and begin our weekend, if that's what works. So it's...kind of be in our hands. And I will be consulting with various members on the Rules Committee report, and trying to help facilitate that. Hearings will begin on Tuesday the 18th, following the Martin Luther King holiday. The calendar is out. I appreciate all of those of you who have been approving. You can rely on the calendar...there are three people who have asked reconsider the ending of the calendar. You can rely on the calendar in the early several months. I have promised three people that I will reconsider the...how we conclude. And that's a function of giving up recess days, as you know. So I will work through that. I...those of us who have been here know of the excellence of the Speaker's staff. And I would ask you to rely upon them. They have been wonderful in helping me. You can rely on them. And they're going to help me serve you. I think also we need to... I will continue to acknowledge that we've been putting in a lot of bills. We've been convenienced