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FLOOR DEBATE

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waste and the water issues. Even though the number of bills might not be there, the amount of debate that is necessary to come to some conclusions on those issues is going to be dramatic in the next few years. And so I would hope that the Committee on Committees would look at more than just the number of bills; they would look at the issues that they're dealing with. So I do support this proposal. I hope that the Committee on Committees does the best job that they possibly can, but as life changes, that doesn't mean that we can't change this in ten years, or even before, because issues change. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator McDonald. Senator Hudkins, followed by Senator Beutler and others.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Mr. President. To Senator Schrock, I appreciate the fact that we do have weighty issues in Natural Resources. So does Education. So does Health and Human Services. And in reality, we don't know from one year to the next how many bills we're going to have in each committee or what the topic matter is going to include. For example, Senator Erdman did give the Rules Committee a caseload by the committees from the years 1999 through last year. I'm going to go through some of these, just give you some numbers. In...the first year is 1999, Agriculture had 27 bills. Their high was 2002, with 36; last year they had 21. Appropriations: 27 bills; their high was 42, low was 24; last year was 32. I'll skip around. Business: 21 in 1999; 49 last year. So they have been steadily increasing. Education: 78 bills, moving to 93, 46, 67 last year. Government, Military and Veterans Affairs: 98 bills, dropping to 65, and then last year 69. Health and Human Services: 64; their low was 48; last year 76. Judiciary is pretty steady, but they went from 186 in '99 to 139 last year. So there are differences every year, and just because you have a whole bunch of bills one year doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to have the same number of bills the next year. Can they be more thought provoking, more...needing more time, more complicated because you're working with other agencies? Of course they are, but just because...well, I won't go there. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Beutler,