

March 28, 1984

LR 1

It is, in fact, a way of greatly strengthening the Appropriations Committee which frankly I don't believe all the members of the committee are even interested in doing. It is not, in fact, good public policy to protect the budget from the members of this Legislature and that is what we do here and we don't do it in a rule, we do it in the State Constitution. It is bad public policy, it is a bad idea. This proposal is wrong and we need to deal with it appropriately today and that is why I urge you to vote for the kill motion.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would also like to speak briefly in favor of the kill motion. It seems to me it has been a very short period of time since we did it a different sort of way and that didn't seem to work too well and now we are doing it every year and frankly I don't know what it is that is disturbing Senator Warner. I think that the appropriations process that we go through each year is a very helpful process. It is a process that injects a little more honesty into the system when they have to go through it every year rather than once every two years or...I'm not sure what the four year provision in there means and I would ask you if you are sure what it means. But it seems to me that from time to time and almost every year in several different ways that appropriations process is very helpful in terms of straightening out some problems in different agencies. I remember a couple of years ago when I had an amendment to the appropriations bill dealing with the Equal Opportunity Commission that I think was very effective in getting some things done a little bit differently. The University budget was cut a couple of years ago because some people felt that some messages needed to be given to the University, and in addition to that, there are changes that are made every year which may cause the appropriations of one year to be inappropriate the following year. Now Senator Warner says adjustments can be made. I do have a question, Senator Warner, if I may because I'm not quite sure how this would work. The Constitution at the present time...of course you are putting in there that appropriations are going to be

11051