

March 10, 1982

pation of this kind of circumstances should it occur so we are pretty well prepared to go back and look at the tentative budget that would have been submitted this morning and back down some of those costs in light of what has happened to the economy. So I am only pointing out that we are not going back to scratch or to the drawing boards because a great deal has been done that ought to expedite the work of the committee to a significant amount in terms of time.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, Mr. President, then I would like to make a notation in the record or something and make a request I guess. First of all, I am going to support the rules suspension, try and accommodate the Appropriations Committee any way that is possible. Second, I would ask if it is possible to establish something that I kind of thought had existed and I know it did in the "olden" days and that is that a public hearing, as I understand as exists in our rules, occur on the budget bill, a public hearing on the bill itself when it gets in whatever form rather than a hearing just on, as has always been the tradition on this piece, that piece, that piece, so that someone could come and testify on the budget bill as a total entity so that someone might support something but only in the context of a cut somewhere else. I noted in the Governor's message this morning that two incredibly large ticket items, a major increase for the University and a major increase from state employees' salaries are still maintained in one form or another and I would hope that we could have a public hearing on the entire budget once it is put into that form rather than just being able to appear on a piece of it separate from everything else.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, you may close on your motion.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, only this, I think that will facilitate the consideration of the Legislature of the budget if we are given this extension of time and the only modification in the rule is the requirement of the bill being placed on General File today. All other aspects of the rule remain in effect. Of course obviously there has been numerous public hearings to date on the proposal with a lot of input. If you want further public hearings by the body, that obviously would require a further extension of time but that is an issue that could be addressed later. I would urge that the body would support the rule suspension.

PRESIDENT: Alright, the question before the House then is Senator Warner's motion to suspend Rule 8, Section 5. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. This will require 30 votes. Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 34 ayes, 0 nays, on Senator Warner's motion, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Rule 8, Section 5 is suspended.