

ready and preparing and spending that two months working together on the organizational efforts on that opening day. Then opening day comes and finally we start to get moving and introducing bills and getting our offices changed around and that usually takes a couple of weeks and we really do take a lot of time on this effort. It seems to me when we have a limited situation in terms of days, 90 days is the only time we have to work on these issues, we ought to use each of those 90 days a little more efficiently. Now we have thought about coming in and organizing and then taking off a couple of weeks. We had a rule change back a few years ago to do that. And a lot of people, especially the rural senators, said, no, that is not a good idea because we want to get out of here as early as possible. We don't want to be meeting till July, we want to be out of here as soon as possible and so we really couldn't get very far on that concept. What we need is to allow ourselves in December to meet for about a day, two, maybe three days at the most to come and organize and get ourselves together, maybe introduce a few bills and then go home for the holidays and come back whenever we feel we want to come back and start in ready and prepared to begin the work of the Legislature. The result of an interim study is this proposal. Back when I was Rules Chairman a few years ago, we did look at efficiency in the Legislature and one of the things we thought was most important was this change. We introduced a bill two years ago to do that but we didn't consider it till last year and because we had forgotten about the organizational problems and it was late in the session and everybody just decided we weren't going to pursue that issue this last year. Well, I want to thank Senator Rupp and the members of the Constitution Committee because we are considering now this issue much earlier and I hope your memories from the last month are much clearer and we recognize the validity and virtue of moving forward with this proposal. The same proposal was considered in 1976 on the ballot. It was voted down by a very slim margin. The vote was 47 percent in favor and 53 percent against. It almost passed about ten years. I am asking us to give the voters a second chance on this concept and to give the Legislature a second chance, hopefully this time successful, to organize ourselves a little more efficiently. And I have passed out a summary, if we had adopted in 1984 when we hoped to have the issue on a ballot, this constitutional amendment, what would have happened this session, and as you can see, it would have been a very time...timewise a very