

February 20, 1985

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President...

PRESIDENT: Do you want to discuss your amendment now, Senator?

SENATOR DECAMP: Yes, I'll mention it as I am going. Mr. President, I totally support the proposal of Senator Warner. Maybe this is a good example of trying an idea and when we realize the idea doesn't work, we're man enough to stand up and say, okay, let's abandon it and change it. And, indeed, this idea which had some noble origins when Senator Warner proposed it simply has not functioned as it was intended. It truly has become kind of a device for political game playing and did, indeed, waste several days of the session's time. There was some interesting discussion last year, but ultimately, I think the net effect was negative. I would propose, however, an additional amendment to his proposal dealing with the same section and that would be simply to allow the A bills when they reach Final Reading to go ahead and be read and be processed. The idea of delaying them, I think, just hasn't worked either. I think it has led to game playing and political bargaining and let me explain that. As you process, in the orderly process in committees, your bills, get them advanced on the floor, get them moved over to Final Reading, then under the rules we've been following under this proposal that exists now, these all come into a logjam so to speak and they sit there and then as you near the end of the session, to be very honest, A deals with B, B deals with C, C trades with D. You can say it shouldn't happen or couldn't happen, but I think putting them all in one spot enhances that kind of negotiating and trading and I think may in fact result in additional expenditures that might not occur if things were just done in an orderly manner as they were processed out here on the floor. So my amendment, which is up there with the Clerk, would be simply to allow the A bills. For example, we had a case this morning, the Airport Authority thing, I think it was a \$5,000 or \$10,000 appropriations bill that goes along with that. You would know on a daily basis rather than on a speculative basis, you would know what your expenditures were and where you were. You wouldn't have a hundred million potentially sitting on Final Reading to decide what was going to happen. You would have in fact the actual bills that were passed and/or vetoed.