

April 16, 1985

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, if I could just take a couple minutes of your time. I want to turn your attention to the future and it's a little hard to do that I know when we're so immersed in the present and the present is so unresolved on so many issues, but we need to talk a little bit about interim studies. For the freshmen in here, you probably don't realize yet that we do have a process called interim studies, but during the summer and the fall the committee staff and the Legislative Research Department does research over...on a number of issues and the issues to which they direct their attention are essentially those issues that are pointed out to them by the committees and by individual senators through requests for interim studies. And the requests for interim studies traditionally take place during the legislative session so that the Research Department and the staff can get started on them in the early summer and follow through with them in the fall. Now the current process simply provides for your submitting of an interim study resolution and last year, for example, there were a hundred and some submitted. I don't need to tell you that putting all of our resources together we don't have nearly the resources to do a good job on interim studies when there are that many interim studies. We have limited resources and when you try to do that many studies the impact is dissipated to the extent that you do nothing well. So what I'm going to recommend to the Executive Board this year is that we keep in place the current system, that is we don't try to change our rules, but working within our rules that we try to identify some priority interim studies and the prioritization will essentially be the process of picking out five to ten interim studies that are recommended to us by individual senators or by committees and doing a thorough and exhaustive job on those interim studies, picking them carefully and doing a thorough and exhausting job and in doing that we will probably give certain advantages to priority interim studies. For example, we will direct the Research Department to give priority to those particular interim studies. It may be that the Executive Committee, if invited by a Standing Committee, will join in the study with them. We are going to try to devise thorough research teams comprising people from the fiscal analyst's office, from the Research Department, from the Standing Committee's staffs, really thorough research teams to do a job on these interim studies. At the same time the committees are free to proceed with their own interim studies separately and apart