

PRESIDENT: The amendment is adopted. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: I believe, Mr. President, by title this is an appropriations bill. Under Rule 6, 3(h) it requires a majority of the elected body to adopt an amendment to an amendment on an appropriation bill. It would be 25 votes.

PRESIDENT: We will take up your point, Senator Warner. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to discuss the point?

SENATOR DECAMP: The issue was announced.

PRESIDENT: Did announce it.

SENATOR DECAMP: Or did I misunderstand maybe?

PRESIDENT: The fact that the Chair did announce the vote does not change what may be a constitutional requirement.

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, it certainly should because we shift back between 25 and 30 on this constitutional question. Kind of is...

PRESIDENT: Is there anyone who wishes to make further comment on the point? Senator Nichol. The point has been raised that we need 25 votes to pass an amendment to the committee amendments on the ground that it is an appropriations bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would just suggest that if we were going to have 25 votes, it should have been challenged prior to the announcing of the vote and prior to the Presiding Officer stating what it was. Secondly, almost always an amendment to an amendment takes a majority of those and if that was not applicable, then that should have been challenged prior to the Presiding Officer saying so.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, do you wish to make a comment?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, first I had no reason to raise the question until there was less than 25 votes and I was sitting back here assuming everybody understood that an appropriation bill amendment to an amendment is 25 votes. It has been that way for many years, and as I understand