

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: (No response.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please, on the suspension of the rules.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose the suspension of the rules to make it so that the question is not divisible and I would like to remind those of you and Senator DeCamp has spoke quite a bit about the fact that 42 of us agreed a week ago today to give the Appropriations Committee an opportunity to develop a package of specific cuts. And I was one of those 42 people. I stayed both Thursday and Friday and came down part of Tuesday, watched the Appropriations Committee at work and I commend them for the long hours and the work that they have put in, but I, for one, being one of those 42 people, did not agree to accept in toto, that package and do it in a fashion that I think is against the way that this body had ought to operate and that is to say that when a committee comes up with an amendment, that we have to accept the entire amendment. We don't do that for other committees, we don't do that for other bills, we don't do that for other issues. I, for one, do not think it's good process to do it for this particular one either. And I understand, I understand the difficulty with that because, as Senator Pirsch pointed out, we all have some parts of that particular proposal that causes us to swallow very hard and I recognize that if we allow amendments to it, that it is going to extend the debate, but it is going to take 25 votes. What we're really doing, it seems to me, is saying that the Appropriations Committee, and I would guess that hardly any of these particular cuts are on there with nine "yes" votes out of the committee. I imagine there was some dissension on about all of them. What we're really saying is that we, as a body, are going to have to accept the whole works and then if we want, later on, to take any of those back out, any of those particular cuts, any of those particular agencies that are eliminated, then the shoe is on that foot and you have to get the 25 votes to put them back into the budget. And let me remind you, the mood of this body this year, and I think that's all right, the mood of this body is to take things out of the budget, but how many amendments...