

PRESIDENT: Senator Withem and then Senator Harris.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President and members of the body, I join Senator Morehead in asking that you consider...allow Senator Beutler's amendment to be substituted. She gave us a history lesson from last year and the year before on the appropriations process. I would like to give you a little history lesson from just yesterday and talk about it in terms of legislative courtesy, pure legislative courtesy. If you remember yesterday at noon, there was a group of twenty plus senators coming into this body who wished that we would be able to do an across the board cut before we considered the package. There is another group of twenty plus senators who wanted to do the package rather than ever considering an across the board cut. We were at loggerheads all afternoon. Finally at about six o'clock in the evening Senator Vard Johnson moved to reconsider. He said, let's get off of dead center, let's give an opportunity for the Appropriations Committee package to be voted on. Out of courtesy basically to our process and to get something going, there were a large number of us that voted for that suspension of the rules. It was passed. The tactical advantage that those that supported the across the board cut was given up. We could have still been here debating the whether or not to do which particular person walks through the door first. We gave up that advantage yesterday by voting in favor of the suspension of the rules. We allowed the package to be adopted. Many of us voted in favor of that package, Senator Morehead and I, I think, for two. I don't necessarily regret that package. Right now though what Senator Beutler is asking for is merely for one last time for us to consider a different sort of across the board concept before we rush on and adopt the package and go about our way, one last shot. Senator Haberman used the term "stalling". I think if there is anybody that is stalling, it is those that objected to this substitution. Senator Beutler was next up. He had one concept he wanted to propose. He is merely saying out of courtesy to him and a group of other people that have worked on this what he would like to do is consider a different proposal at this time. We will then have an opportunity to consider that proposal. If that proposal is adopted, fine. If it is not adopted, fine also. The next motion is the DeCamp motion to suspend the rules and get on with the process. I plan on supporting the Beutler proposal if it is considered, probably support