

June 5, 1985

special session. I mention these names only to show you that what I am doing is a direct line, in direct line of the tradition and in the direct line of the thinking of the main body of this Legislature as it has experienced, as it has in fact experienced special sessions and to suggest to you that perhaps Senator DeCamp is not quite sincere today in the things that he is suggesting to you. Now as far as Senator DeCamp's proposal is concerned I think there are two major defects which I would seek to correct, if you felt fit to adopt his proposal, but the two major defects are that with regard to referencing there is no time line on referencing so under his set of rules the Referencing Committee could sit there for ten days or 20 days and do nothing. Under the proposal of the Rules Committee the referencing is controlled. It has to be done within a specific time period. Secondly, with regard to bill introductions, his proposal says nothing with regard to how many days you have to introduce bills. Under his proposal you can introduce bills, I suppose, any day of the special session. Under the Rules Committee proposal you are limited to bill introductions on the first day of the special session. You get all the bills in on the first day and then after that you start to deal with them. So those would be my two major criticisms of Senator DeCamp's proposal. To say that our proposal completely abrogates the committee system simply isn't a fair assessment. That it modifies the power of the committee, yes. That's what it intends to do because it treats and would seek to treat the bills of the special session as the bills of the Legislature as a whole, not of any one committee particularly.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And I think that's appropriate because when you're in a special session you're dealing with just a few bills then all of your attention, each one of you can focus all of your attention on those few bills. You don't have to rely so much upon the committees whereas during a regular session when there are hundreds of them flying around and you're doing your thing and they're doing their thing, you need to rely more upon the committee because you can't pay as much personal attention to things. But in a special session we're all focused, we're all narrowly drawn on a few bills and we can make up our own minds. We don't need an ordinate power in the committees at that particular point in time. So, again, do what you will. Take Senator