

January 9, 1986

would you like to close on the first portion of your rule change.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I am going to close just on the first part of this amendment and the amendment again is simply to reduce the number of days to introduce bills from 10, which is our current system, to 7. I will take three days off of the time to introduce bills. Now I want you to be mindful of this fact that our Speaker has scheduled the first public hearings a week from Monday. He has scheduled the first public hearings a week from Monday. Under the current rules, we will still be introducing bills a week from Monday. That will be the ninth legislative day and Tuesday will be the tenth legislative day. Maybe it is a week from Tuesday, the Speaker says. Okay, he has just given me the high sign, it is a week from Tuesday. We will still be introducing bills a week from Tuesday. I am saying let's simply reduce the number of days to introduce bills from 10 until 7. That in and of itself should result in the introduction of fewer bills. I am not pandering to the public. In fact at no time, except right this minute, have I mentioned the public perception of the Legislature and bill introduction. I am pandering to my needs. I am pandering to your needs. I am pandering to my need for good health. I am pandering to my need for mental sanity, for emotional stability. I am pandering to my need and to your need for thoughtful time to be able to reflect on the work that we have in front of us so that we don't fall asleep in committee hearings, so that we don't fall asleep at our desks, so that we can do the kind of work that we have to do, and we can do that kind of work because we have got the time to do it. We have got the time to do it. That is what I am pandering to, and until we, as a body, begin to develop some rules for our own self-governance which give us more time for thoughtful work, more time for deliberative work, we are our own worst enemies. We are absolutely our own worst enemies and we do it by the holiday atmosphere of bill introductions, and I suggest we simply reduce the number of days from 10 to 7.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You have heard the closing on the first portion of the Johnson rule change. All those in favor of it vote aye, opposed vote nay. Senator Higgins, for what purpose do you arise?