

January 9, 1986

introductory remarks on these, Mr. Speaker. I am still getting accustomed to this microphone, I must admit. I hate the ringing noise in the Chamber. We have some wags in the Chamber, too.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The call is raised.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Sections 3, 4, and 5 do these things. They simply say that all bills introduced during the first 10 legislative days shall be referred to the appropriate Standing Committees. No problem with the reference, they all get referenced out. They then go on to say that on the tenth legislative day, on the tenth legislative day, the committees themselves shall determine the bills that have been referenced to them for which there will be public hearings. They go on to say that all bills for which there will not be public hearings will be indefinitely postponed. They then go on to say that any member who doesn't care to have his or her bill indefinitely postponed or any bill indefinitely postponed may simply with 25 votes have that bill heard by the committee, so the bill will have its public hearing. That is all it says. Then it goes on to say that we will complete all of our public hearings on the 25th legislative day which, in effect, will mean that we will have no more than three and a half weeks worth of public hearings and that is it, and then we will have 35 full legislative days to consider the 332 carry-over bills plus all bills that have then been heard by our committees and advanced to the floor. That is what this next series of sections provides. Now what this does for the first time is it provides the committees themselves, what it does for the first time is it provides the committees themselves with the ability to determine early on whether or not a measure that has been referred to that committee should have a public hearing, and if the committee concludes by a majority of vote that the measure should not have a public hearing, then that measure dies unless 25 votes require that committee later on to have the public hearing. Now you and I know that we have sat through hour after hour after hour of public hearing time on measures that will go absolutely no place whatsoever. And in fact of the 100 bills that have now been introduced, you and I could go through that list fairly quickly and check off those bills that we all agree have a reasonable chance of going places and those bills that we all agree will not go any place whatsoever. So it seems to me that one of the things this session and this