

January 9, 1986

Mr. Clerk, please. No, we have to...excuse me, don't record yet. Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator DeCamp, would you close on your amendment to the amendment.

SENATOR DEKAMP: Yeah, Mr. President. To address some of the things that Senator Chambers and Senator Haberman and Senator Marsh said, let me tell you, I prefer to change nothing. I prefer to leave the system precisely as it is now. Individual chairmen can handle their individual committees as they see fit and I guess some would say some have too lengthy a hearings and some have too short, and some have arbitrariness and some don't. I think the system is functioning adequately now. So why am I offering an amendment? My amendment is simply in case the other provision of Senator Johnson would happen to pass. He is offering two alternatives. One, you vote to kill the bill by giving it no public hearing whatsoever which effectively kills it or, two, you have a full-blown public hearing. I am saying in addition to those two options allow the committee, which I think is done anyway, but if you are going to pass this rule you had better have this other in it, allow them also to say we will give this one a public hearing but it will be limited to 20 or 30 minutes or whatever, in other words, not a complete death or a complete full-blown hearing but something in between in addition to what you have done. I repeat, I prefer to do nothing, to leave the system as it is now, to let the strength or weakness of individual chairmen pretty well govern what happens in committees but, obviously, if somebody feels they have to put this rather cumbersome new system into effect, they must feel some chairmen somewhere need the additional sanction or support of a rule before they can act. My purpose in offering the amendment is because I am afraid the whole package is going to pass. I am going to vote for the amendment but I prefer nothing passed. I prefer we leave the system pretty well as it is, particularly for this one reason again, you are changing the rules of the game exactly halfway through the game. If you had come in and said you would do this next session, that would be different, but if you remember something and I would like to remind you, when we adopted the premise last session that we could amend the rules with 25 votes this year, do you remember why it was