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been given maybe 20 minutes instead of two hours. So I still think we should keep working today to find a way to give more time to what we know is going to be the tough part of this session, the budget, and I hope that somebody comes up with a better plan or that Senator Johnson can satisfy me that I can vote for his amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, please, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I rise in opposition to Senator Johnson's amendment. I just don't see how this makes any sense at all. We have a bill here, the bill is already getting printed up, or the bills will be printed up. They will be brought up before the committee. The committee will have to take a few minutes to look at the bill and make a decision on whether they are, in fact, going to have a hearing for it. I never have seen anything wrong with the committee process. I think it is a good process. It keeps the public informed. I know some legislation that comes before the committee that I have listened to, they are very thought provoking and a lot of times it takes a few years before the committees realize that this type of legislation is good. I think it provides good input into the public on what problems the state is facing in the future. So I think the committee process, the public hearing is good for the public, it is good for the legislators and I think we are really defeating an integral part of the whole legislative process by doing away with the committee hearings. Now, my viewpoint has been, as I introduced the amendment prior to this, if we are going to have any limitation, it should be on the amount that each senator chooses upon but this approach is something that I see as completely illogical and if we are going to limit it, it should be in a different manner.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, obviously, the Appropriations Committee will abide by whatever the process is, but I would like to at least call your attention that the 25th day comes out about the 13th of February or thereabouts, 15th of February, which will be about half way through what we had anticipated because we try to set up our hearings by agencies well ahead of time using the guideline of what previous sessions have