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public hearing. The methodology used by all of our other states, by all of the sister states, to deal with large numbers of bills that are submitted is to provide for some upfront screening process and that screening process is done, as I said earlier, either through the political party which happens to control that legislative body, or if that is not in place, through the power of a committee chairperson, through a committee chairperson who simply signs off on the bill that is going to have a public hearing or a legislative hearing or it's not, or through the committee caucus. That is how it is done in 49 other states. Now, I am telling you, and myself, 1986 is an extraordinary year for us. It is an extraordinary year for us because we are carrying over the largest number of bills we have ever carried over for floor debate and committee work. We are dealing with a fragile budget. We are dealing with tough economic times. We need the opportunity once in our legislative career, once in our legislative career, to be able to give all of our time and attention to debate on the floor and to the salient issues of the day. And I am saying this one year, this one year, permit us please to borrow from the experience of the 49 sister states and of Congress, itself, as to how business is conducted legislatively and the methodology is for there to exist some screening process as to what measures will be heard publicly. Furthermore, this particular provision puts a finite time line on public hearings. They must be conducted by the 25th legislative day, which, as Senator Warner points out, is February 13th. After that day we will be on the floor. If perchance the Appropriations Committee has not completed its work, and Senator Warner said it would abide our collective decision, it may well be that this Legislature would have to take a one week break as we did during the regular session, as we did during the regular session, for further attention to appropriational matters. It could well be. But in the meantime could we not one time, one time, have the ability at the outset to make some determination as to what matters we were going to take up?

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Without that kind of ability, we are no different than some person who sits in an office and must process every item in that person's in basket, every item in that person's in basket, irrespective of the merits or the lack thereof, or the time each item takes. We are being