

January 9, 1986

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Bill Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we have all been through the basic rules, the basic rules and how they operate. We don't need to go into a lot of discussion. I just want to clear up some other things that have been talked about. John DeCamp gave the illustration that we are 21 to 7 ahead and we don't want to change the rules. Well, he has got it backwards. We are behind 21 to 7 and we have an opportunity to change the rules to our benefit. That is the approach that I am taking. We need to set priorities. I agree with Senator Johnson when he says that we have a screening process in other states and we should have a screening process, except I would prefer to be in my individual role as a state senator one of the screeners and not allow that privilege to go to someone else. I also agree with Senator Chambers and Senator DeCamp and Senator Wesely, Senator Haberman and others that have spoken, that we do not need a bill limitation. It is not the right way to go. It kind of reminds me of a story. There's two city slickers who were out hunting deer and they bagged a deer that had a big, big set of antlers and so they decided to drag it back to the pickup and they were dragging it by the feet and, boy, they were having a tough time. The antlers were kind of hard to pull against the dirt and so a farmer came along and said, you know, he said, you guys, obviously, don't know what you are doing. He said, what you ought to do is go around and take hold of the antlers and then it would be a lot easier. And so that is what they did and so the city slickers pulled and pulled and pulled and one of the city slickers said to the other, you know, he said that was really a good suggestion. He said it's a lot easier pulling this deer by the antlers. And the other city slicker said, there is only one thing wrong, the pickup keeps getting further and further away. And I think that is what we are kind of talking about here when we are talking about doing a bill limitation. I think we need to take the opportunity to change our direction a little bit. We are not setting up permanent rules forever, but we have a problem and that is that we have too many bills and I don't think there is anybody going to argue about that from the man on the street to the members of this Legislature. It is a question of how we are going to handle them. So I have a proposal which I have sent out to you individually. I have visited with some of you about it. I have not pushed it because I knew that we would go through the process and come