

January 9, 1986

the budget, not just general revenue share part of it or the funds that were the state's in this case, but back home we understood the money we collected in taxes and how it was spent. We knew about how much federal money or state money was involved and how it was spent. We feel that it would be very helpful to a lot of us on the floor of the Legislature for those that want to take the time to do it and those that feel obliged that they should that as state agencies apply to the existing or the changing Standing Committees that those Standing Committees would have the chance to talk with the agency directors, people representing that agency of state government, and ask questions about their total responsibility as it applies to the money they spend, be it just state, general revenues, or federal, or other sources of third party funds. This would be especially helpful for us should the legislation we consider require A bills, for example, or towards the end of the Legislature as we consider crises, like in the special sessions, what we are actually voting on and what the effect would be of those decisions. It really would mean no more work of any existing agency head or department or its staff. It would mean that we would require no more staff at all. The information that we need has always been available and has never been denied us, but we feel this would give us a chance that we would like to have and I am sure some others would, as I talked to some Standing Committee chairmen, a chance that they would like to have to maybe do a better job as it applied to one of our most important responsibilities and that is the budget. We want to make sure we point out we have no problem with the way the system has worked in the years...down through the years. The integrity of the Appropriations Committee and its Chairman and how it has worked is outstanding and that is no problem. We would just like to have a better chance to do the job, as we see it, better than we were able to do it last year. We feel this rule change that simply offers us that opportunity is the kind of a thing that, in fact, might encourage more participation by more legislators in their Standing Committee responsibilities to do a better job than we have been able to do in the past and we hope you will seriously consider it in that vein and vote in favor of this rule change. Paul, do you have anything to say?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hartnett, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: (Microphone not activated)...to what