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you turn it down. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Lynch, did you wish to close, or Senator Hartnett? Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Warner, could I ask you a question?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Senator Warner, in your presentation you talked about doing it informally. Is that possible now without a rule change? I am simply asking a question.

SENATOR WARNER: Sure. No, what I was suggesting, there is nothing that I know of that precludes any committee from, and, in fact, I would hope that you know, there a normal process of a hearing on a bill for a new program that the agency spends time...or the committee spends time with the agency talking about how this would impact your whole operation and certainly a number of committees I know have had discussions. I don't know if any of them that you are on have but I have understood other committees have had informal discussions, at least those committee members who wanted to. My concern is that once it is put in a rule, this is in...at least I believe it is inevitable that it will only be a matter of time that it will be...well, we've got to have more staff to prepare all these reports. I don't know how I will handle if three committees make recommendations and three don't and when you get to putting a budget together in the final analysis you have got to strike some kind of a balance between all those competing needs. You know, if there is...all I am saying is the kind of thing that both you and Senator Lynch are proposing, there is nothing that would preclude those kind of opportunities in terms of oversight. You know, I would urge every Standing Committee to be as familiar with the operation of the agencies under their portfolio of responsibilities as could be done. But I have a real concern once we start putting it into rules because then we are going to start, I think, in time moving to mandating it, you move to staffing and we will have the kind of situation that I see in Congress where they have all those overlap of committees and they never can resolve anything. We don't even get a budget out of them until they are half through a budget year.