

January 10, 1986

view that these would be amendments that are friendly. I'm quite concerned about the rule change in general because I fear that while its goal is very laudable and I think that some of the people that are in favor of the rule change goals are extremely laudable and sincere, I worry that it won't achieve what they are hoping that it will achieve and it could cause some mechanical problems. But with these two amendments we think that, I think and I think there are others that do, that at least the bill or the rule change becomes more manageable. I'm not at all sure that I want to support the rule change. But the way it was before these two amendments would be just, in our estimation, extremely unmanageable. But in an effort to try to dissipate some of the cynicism or skepticism that the Appropriations Committee is trying to keep everything close to their own vest so that they are the only ones that know anything about the budget, and any kind of derogatory statements towards the rule change might be considered grappling for power, and sincerely the committee is not interested in doing that. We recognize the sincerity of the introducers of this rule change. So if you feel that this is an extremely good idea, if you would adopt these two amendments at least we think that the mechanics will be workable at that point. With that I'd offer the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Senator Scofield is next and Senator Hartnett, you follow.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I simply rise to support Senator Hannibal's amendment here. I think as he pointed out, it does make what could become a terribly difficult situation for the fiscal staff, perhaps for your own committee's staff, and perhaps also for the agency people, I think it makes it a lot more workable. So I guess, out of respect for the people who work very hard in support of this, I would urge you to accept this amendment. I have some reservations about where we might be going with the total rules change. But I think this amendment certainly makes it more workable if you decide to accept the change. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: I think that is a good compromise that Senator Hannibal put forth because I guess that what we want to do, as I said yesterday, to be educated about the budget