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and opposes the rule change. But I have to do it again. First of all, Senator Withem's rule change says that we are going to charge the absent member his expenses to go get him and bring him back, "unless...excuse for nonattendance is made as the Legislature may judge sufficient, and in that case the expense shall be paid out of the contingent fund. The motion to compel such presence shall require a majority vote of the members present." I can foresee a floor fight that could take more time than ever before as to who is going to judge what are extraordinary circumstances. We are going to sit here and we are going to chastise and cut to pieces and/or defend a member to have this body decide, and everybody has their own opinion as to what is an authorized excuse. So I can just foresee nothing but trouble with this. We've got two different kinds of expenses. What if the guy hasn't got the money to pay to come back from wherever he is? You can't use your campaign fund, and you just don't have the money. Then what is he going to do, go to jail? Then we say, well, on the other hand, if the Legislature says he's got to come back, we are going to pay for it. I mean the thing is not consistent. We've had no problem in the past. Many, many years ago we might have had a problem. We haven't now. This body is understanding and we are all up front. If a senator wants to be excused that is his business. I don't think the body should get into debate as whether it is authorized or unauthorized. What is that going to be? What is the criteria? So you try to set that down into writing and you're going to come up with something that you missed. So I would like to ask that this body do not accept this rule change, and then wait and debate the second one at that time, Mr. President. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have mixed emotions on this rule change. As the World Herald reported, in the newspaper, I missed the entire seven-day special session you had on Commonwealth. It wasn't mentioned that I stayed home every day the month of August waiting for the Governor to call me because when we left here in June he said we will have a special session probably in August. So my entire vacation I just said wipe out August because I know we are going to have a special session then. And every other day I kept reading in the paper maybe yes, you know, we are having it next week for sure, maybe. So finally at