

January 13, 1986

SPEAKER NICHOL: We have several speakers starting with Senator Haberman, and Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose the committee structure change for various reasons. First of all I can't understand some of the rationale. We took one of the committees that had the least number of bills, Urban Affairs, and left it as it is. Then we took another committee which is the most...one of the most important, I'll say the most important committee, Agriculture, and we cut it to one day and completely took out environment. Well if agriculture and environment doesn't go together I'll throw in with you. Then what else did they do? They took General Affairs, which is Miscellaneous Subjects, and they deleted campaigns and they put that underneath Government. What does that mean? That means redistricting. They don't want to leave that in General Affairs. Also under Government they've taken two other items away from Judiciary. Well why has the big play been on Judiciary? They have a lot of bills, it says they take a lot of time. Why all of a sudden, in this last year, did this all happen? In the 10, 12, 15 years before they had many, many bills and they didn't have any problems. Then they created the Transportation Committee, motor vehicles, railroads and common carriers. Basically all of these subjects are covered by the Public Service Commission. They write the rules and regs, they have the authority to do all of the issues on these. So I'm going to come back...and they put environment under Public Works which doesn't fit with the other things that they have, recreation, that is under Public Works. Then they took energy, which is a commerce and which is business, out of the Banking Committee. So again I ask you to not endorse these rule changes in this 60-day session. Again I say it is too fast, it is too quick. Let's leave the system the way it is, it is working fine. But if we're going to make any changes then I would strongly suggest that we take the Urban Affairs, do away with that committee and put it underneath Government because that is what it deals with is SIDs, sanitary improvement districts, and that is all government. I sit on the Urban Affairs Committee so I know what passes through that committee. But, however, as far as I am personally concerned I don't like the makeup of the committees. I don't think we should change them at this time, and I stand opposed. Thank you, Mr. President.