

public hearing?

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, in fact, we are going to hold a public hearing without the bill physically being present. It is an informational hearing. I guess I don't necessarily believe in such things but that has been kind of the compromise suggested and I have acceded to it. The balance of the story is we would then begin processing the bill here this morning and try to get it advanced to Select File, I believe, yet today and then have it ready for Final Reading on Friday. The reason this was suggested, I think Pat O'Donnell, the Clerk, suggested and made it pretty clear that if you were going to do it, you had to do it today because I think Friday, Friday would be the practical deadline if you were going to have this in effect with the emergency clause before January 20th. I think that is essentially correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator DeCamp, whereas the letter from the banking people said that they don't care anything about memorializing Martin Luther King's birthday one way or the other, maybe there are citizens and people on the floor of this Legislature who feel that it was a mistake to make Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday because there are people who hold very negative attitudes toward black people in this country despite comments that would suggest the contrary in a letter circulated and signed by about 29 members of this body yesterday. So wouldn't it be a travesty to have a bill that the Legislature is acting on, then convene a hearing when the hearing is to serve no purpose if the public is invited to come and express their view and they are opposed to this? Why are you going to have a forum which gives the indication that their view is going to be taken into consideration when, in reality, no matter what they say, the Legislature is going to act a certain way or is going to try to act a certain way? Does that seem to be kind of like a sham to you, that hearing?

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, Senator Chambers, I suggested we simply proceed along and pass the bill, as I am attempting to do. Senator Beutler and some others requested that at least we hold an informational hearing in case there was any information that needed to be brought in or anybody wanted to express an opinion and he asked me if I would be willing to do that and I said I certainly would. If that is what some people want, that will accommodate some people, I guess