

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. Speaker and members, in addition to the concern that some people obviously display now regarding a bill being including as an amendment on Final Reading or even on Select File, the fact that we rewrite bills on the floor is obviously a problem. The number of amendments offered by some senators as compared to others with a yellow pad and go through all the whole yellow pad thinking of other amendments to change is obviously a problem as well. One of the things other states have done, and I can say as an old member of the Rules Committee, is to provide that no amendments, no amendments, including bills that amendments that was offered by Senator Withem, as an example, on Final Reading, which was in itself a bill at one time, no amendments can be offered until they're submitted to the Rules Committee at least two days before the bill they intend to amend appears on the agenda. That's pretty drastic, but if you're concerned about these things, that's one way to handle it. Now there's people who are very concerned about that because it gives too much power to a Rules Committee chairman, but the reason that other states have that is because of the kind of debate we're having here now. So when you think about the extremes and the arguments and the extreme arguments that develop as a result of our kind of procedure that we have now, you have to think about these things as alternatives. It would be interesting for us to debate whether or not all amendments have to be written at least two days before and a bill appears before the body and then have the decision made by the Rules Committee as it pertains to their germaneness and appropriateness and, in fact, repetitiveness, etcetera. Could save a lot of time. Obviously, it won't be as democratic and, obviously, transfers an awful lot of the power and authority of the individual senators to a committee but, you know, if you're not satisfied with the system, think about that as well.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I'm trying to find specific reference in the rules. Senator Wickersham said he put this up here to gain a...somebody to ask for it to be ruled out of order and nobody's...nobody has met his desire yet, so I will do so. It's my understanding that this bill has been returned to Select File for a specific amendment. That specific amendment has been adopted. That's the only thing that can be considered at this stage of debate. After it is returned to Final Reading, then an