

TO: Speaker Steve Sviggum
CC: Representative Tim Pawlenty, Rules & Legislative Administration Committee

FROM: House Ethics Committee
Representative Elaine Harder, Chair
Representative Bob Milbert, Vice Chair
Representative Greg Davids
Representative Mary Murphy
Representative Jim Rhodes
Representative Jean Wagenius

DATE: March 24, 2000

RE: Request to Recommend Revisions to House Rules

As Ethics Committee members who have recently contemplated speech in debate issues during consideration of a recent ethics complaint, we pass along the following request to you today.

We believe that the current House Rules relating to speech in debate are contradictory in some places and recommend revision. We are requesting authority from you as Speaker, to study the issue and make recommendations to the Rules and Legislative Administration Committee. The Rules and Procedures of the House Ethics Committee limits our committee's jurisdiction to review and dispose of ethics complaints against members; adoption of written procedures for handling complaints; consideration of complaints about open meeting requirements as referred by the Speaker; and to consider matters referred to it by the Committee on Rules and Legislative Administration or the House. Specific jurisdiction to study and prepare recommendations in this instance would be provide clarification to allow us to proceed.

We appreciate your consideration to this matter. Thank you.