

March 11, 1974

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, if you have a bill about 20 bills down the list and you have one clear on down at the bottom and someone, I'm sure many are in this position, so you aren't gaining a thing by this so-called procedure that will facilitate matters. Somebody is and some aren't. I object to, if you want to vote on Senator Carpenter's motion, I ask for a vote.

PRESIDENT: We're going to vote on it. Do you all understand Senator Carpenter's motion? That is when we start General File, if there objections then, we pass over the bills as they come up on General File. All those who support Senator Carpenter's motion, vote aye. All those opposed vote no. You're voting on Senator Carpenter's motion to start General File this afternoon with the idea that any objections to the bills they'll be passed over. Speaker Proud, for what purpose do you rise?

SPEAKER PROUD: Mr. President, would you read the motion? There's so much confusion here, I don't.....

PRESIDENT: Let's see if that will help. Now, would the Clerk read the motion we have at the present time for Senator Carpenter?

CLERK: The motion I have is to take General File in its present order and pass only without objection, signed Senator Carpenter. Pass over the bill if there is an objection.

PRESIDENT: In order to set an action like this, the Chair would require 25 votes in order to adopt that motion.  
SPEAKER Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD: Mr. President, I'd like to ask a question... on that.....

PRESIDENT: Go ahead, sir.

SPEAKER PROUD: The motion then is to go through General File just as it is up there on the board, is that right?

PRESIDENT: That's the Chair's understanding.

SPEAKER PROUD: Then if there's an objection to taking up a bill, you wouldn't consider it, is that right?

PRESIDENT: I believe that was the jest of Senator Carpenter's motion, yes.

SPEAKER PROUD: Now, I find this very difficult to understand because if you've got an important bill, for example, up there and one senator is against the bill, all he's got to do is object and you never would hear the bill. I'd like to ask Senator Carpenter about that. I'm just trying to reason this out.

PRESIDENT: Excellent. Senator Carpenter, do you yield?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, the other day, Senator, you came on this Body in a hot sweat and you stopped the motion of this Legislature. Now, you've got the authority to speak as you damned please, why don't you do it?

SPEAKER PROUD: Well, I'm going to do it right now.