

March 19, 1974

Legislature, the only way you can be excused is to be excused by the Chair. We'd like to have you comply with the rules please. Final Reading this morning will begin with LB984. For what purpose do you rise, Senator Kennedy?

(PAUSE)

PRESIDENT: Once again, the Chair finds itself in the position of entreating the members to get in their seats so that we could begin Final Reading and not waste too much more time. I notice that we have 14 legislative days and that yesterday we did not get off of Select File. Attention, please. The final reading of LB984. Clerk will read the bill.

CLERK: Read LB984.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I wonder if the Clerk's going to read that fast. I'm going to make an issue out of this and a point. It was testified yesterday we didn't understand the bills. And by indirect reason I was accused of being the one who brought about that result and I propose to change this. If I can.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, it was my understanding that the Clerk was reading too fast?

PRESIDENT: That was, I believe, the protest, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, since we have 49 people in this Body. Each mind works at a different rate so it would be impossible for us to establish how many words per second the Clerk should read to read properly. Since the motion was passed to suspend the rules and do as we had always done, the Clerk knows what rate of speed he can read at and I think he should read at that rate because that is the will of the Body. Now, when it comes to language, separations of words are not performed by the Speaker but by the ear and the mind of the Hearer. Language goes in an unbroken stream until you stop to take a breath. If you're distracted and your ears are somewhat dull and you don't hear everything. Or if you're distracted and your mind is not making the proper separation between the words, that is not the problem of the Speaker but of the Hearer. I understand what Senator Carpenter is doing but I am opposed to it and if he stands to make an issue of it, I'll have to stand every time and take issue with him. And at this point, I have another comment to make. Any man who can dominate this Body the way Senator Carpenter does I suppose should go ahead and do it. But I get tired of individuals coming to me telling me how they don't like what Senator Carpenter does but they won't stand to stop any of it. If a man is a dictator in this Body, he's a dictator with the complicity of this Body. Most of what Senator Carpenter does I don't object to. The only reason I'm objecting this morning is because what he wants to do is going to take too much time and we don't have it to play with now. I have a bill that I consider very important and I want to get to it. If it were not for that, he could make the Clerk read one word an hour and I'll bet the Body would go for it. But I cannot, I will not.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer.