

March 4, 1975

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of the motion to change the rules . . . Senator Luedtke.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, before we vote on it I would like to review for us why this is in the rules. I'm not . . . I'll probably vote for it because we have changed our manner of doing business in this body with regard to the daily calendar that the Speaker now uses, which takes care of part of the problem we had before. This rule is on the books because this body was taking so much time arguing over trivia, telling Congress what to do almost every day of the session. We never got on General File, we never got to the bills that we were supposed to be elected to take care of. We introduced resolutions telling Congress this is what we want you to do. Telling the President, this is what we want you to do. Telling everybody else. Meanwhile when city councils and county commissioners sent us resolutions, we said, well this is our job. A lot of them ended up in the waste basket. So we asked the question, should we spend this much time in debate. Now I'm not opposed to debating legitimate issues. Most of the matters that come down through circulation are to congratulate somebody for being over 100 years old, this type of thing. If there had been some violations, there has been some abuse. That's one thing. I personally don't know of any that I've signed that I wouldn't be very happy to see. Perhaps Senator Syas has an example of one that didn't . . . I think they all should be circulated though Senator Syas. I agree with you. They should have been circulated. This was the reason. We have had a much better time of getting on General File since we've had this rule. Now if abuses have crept into this kind of thing, then I certainly agree with Senator Syas that we ought to clarify those abuses. With the new rule of the Speaker, I'm not too sure that we can't do what's stated here. That's why we had the rule on the books.

PRESIDENT: Senator Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: I wish to say that some of this material that's been authorized by 25 or more votes has not been trivia. Some of it has been quite important. I could give you the reasons on one already. Senator Swigart has been very gracious about it. If you recall, this Legislature signed a resolution to the Agriculture Committee to have a public hearing on a certain matter. It was under their jurisdiction and this is not criticism intended of Senator Swigart. He was able to, as a freshman, use the rules to his advantage, which I credit him for. He got the 25 or so votes after the committee had the bill assigned for a public hearing. No one knew it, only the signers. He got the thing passed and the same as took it away from the jurisdiction of a committee that it had been assigned to for a public hearing. Now this Legislature had voted for a public hearing on this matter. I don't think that's trivia. I think it's very important. I think that Senator DeCamp can tell you that they had this type of rule in the Texas legislature. They went around and got some signers on something. He could tell you, it was a very embarrassing situation to the senators that