

January 9, 1987

SENATOR PAPPAS: Okay, Mr. Speaker, I agree with Senator Chambers, except basically most of the time I'm opposed to not only his motion but to Senator Conway himself, too.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Seeing no other lights, I assume we are prepared for a closing by Senator Conway.

SENATOR CONWAY: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I never...never was it so evident, Senator Pappas, as it was on Wednesday. (Laughter.) As a closing, I'll do this short and sweet. Senator Chambers was right that the manipulations of the "chaircreatures" is beyond what may be real if they so deem that, regardless of whether this rule is there or not. What this rule would do, though, because the same thing applies, even in this short period of time what we may do is expand our activities such that the committee will use up its time and never get to your bill. But the same thing happens now if the scheduling of the bill, through the chairman, is late in that period, whatever that period may be, knowing that that bill, being scheduled that late, is never going to see the light of day on the floor, and it simply goes through the motions and even gives some people maybe a false sense of security that their bill has now made it out of committee. Big deal. It is going to die at the end of the session because it is not going to get anywhere on the floor. What this does do, if there is a positive element at all and it doesn't take any real control away from that chairman, is it does guarantee those of us on the floor that if we get bills through the committee that there is going to be at least 45 days, in a 90-day session, a full day of floor activity for us to hustle and do all the work we can to try to work our bill on the floor. We at least have that much assurance, in almost every case, that we will have an opportunity on the floor, if we get it through committee. And I think that particular balance is valuable. I know the chairmen, for the most part, agree with it. But by putting it in the rule, such as this, everyone can count on the fact that for the most part we came down here to run these through the committee, we gave things their appropriate chance in the committee, and now we are going to have a certain time frame dedicated to trying to run through the rest of the process, through General, Select, and ultimately Final Reading. So, like I say, I don't see why the committee chairmen would restrict it. They still have all of the manipulative abilities that their skills can come to bear. But by the same token, a few of the rest of us have some sense of guidance in terms of how much time is going