

January 18, 1979

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay. Senator Marsh, do you wish to speak to the amendment motion...in other words the amendment to the amendment? That's what's before us now.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question of the introducer of the original motion, if I may.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Newell, is the amendment offered because it is highly unlikely that the motion...that the amendment would pass in its present form without the amendment?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator, I'm not sure whether it would pass or not. The situation is, some people came to me and told me that the administration was interested in putting this off for two years. Now I've talked to some other people like Senator Warner and he said that he has long been in favor of this proposal but that because of the organization of this body, and because of his personal friendship with you that he would prefer to see it put off for 2 years. At the time that I was offering the amendment all that was necessary at that time was to have 25 votes since we had not moved the permanent rules, and I thought there was a good chance that we could pass it at that time. I was asked to delay and I was assured that this sort of amendment would be satisfactory to most people and so therefore, you know, I held it off till now. So to say that it may, in fact, make people more favorable, I can't predict how it would have been if we would not have offered this amendment.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Senator Newell. I rise to oppose the amendment as well as the original rule change. I would like to remind the body that if an individual appears before the Committee on Committees, a quorum for that committee is 7 members of a 13 member committee. At least 7 members of our body will be present to hear the hearing. If you adopt the amendment and eventually the rule change, you may make it possible for 4 members of the Legislature to be doing the same kind of hearing. It is my general belief that a larger group is better qualified to make a decision than a smaller group. I do not see any advantage to the rule change. If the rule change is your wish, why not adopt it now? If it is not your wish, why bind the next Legislature? Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak and then Senator Clark. Senator Dworak...the Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I had a little