

March 21, 1979

LB 164

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the second Johnson amendment is adopted. Now we are ready to vote on the...okay, there is an amendment on the desk. This is another amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Newell moves to amend the committee amendments by striking section 3 which would delete the emergency clause provisions.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me. Will you clear the Board, Mr. Clerk?

SENATOR NEWELL: I have to explain a little bit about just exactly how this bill came out of committee and also have an opportunity to speak on it. I think there is a great anxiety by those who have lobbied the bill long and hard to move this bill across the floor very quickly. I am not opposed to moving the bill across quickly and so forth but I think that we have to recognize that there was some agreements and those agreements have been breached at this time. Now what is basically happening is that in order to get the bill out of committee which there was all kinds of desires to make some compromises, then when it came to the floor, the desire to compromise is no longer there. Well, that is an old trick and we have all understood it. Some of us have played it. Some of us have been made recipients of that game. I guess in this case I am the recipient of the game, but it reminds me very easily that what happens one day can easily be taken back the next day. Now the situation was in the committee in order to get the bill out we tried to compromise this bill as best we could. The three days was a compromise over the original two days and there were other people saying four, five, you know how that numbers game works. So we offered the three days and now that has been rejected, that has been pulled off by the earlier Johnson amendment. Also at the same time, they took off the custodial care. Now personally I had no problem with that and I didn't want that on the bill anyway so that is not a problem for me but the situation is that then in exchange for those two provisions then the emergency clause was stuck on. Now Senator Johnson is basically saying I want the bill back whole except I do want the emergency clause which was a mistake. I should have put that on from the very beginning. The reason he didn't put it on from the very beginning is because he didn't know he had votes for it. Now he thinks he has the votes