

May 23, 1979

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Lewis, do you wish to be recognized? The question has been called for. All those in favor of ceasing debate.....do I see five hands? Yes, I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Okay, record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is carried. Debate is ceased. The Chair recognizes Senator Koch to close on his amendment.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I offered this as a serious amendment, and I know there have been some votes that haven't been altogether all that serious this afternoon. But in the years I have been in this legislative body I have never heard people say that we're irresponsible in terms of number of bills, not at least in my district, because I think it's a matter of how the individual senator approaches when you're asked the question, why so many bills. First of all, I can name the times when we have had fifty or sixty bills that do nothing but primarily harmonize existing laws, that are reviser bills. Many other times we have bills that are trying to bring us up to date with federal mandates. Besides that, you also have a number of bills that deal with critical matters that come out of interim studies. In my case, since I have been here, I feel as though I have been gagged on numerous occasions because I have not been able to express adequately some of the expressions of my constituency in my district, simply because I live under an artificial limitation of number of bills that I can introduce. Therefore, I have had to seek the second best way, and that is to try to get friends on various committees to introduce the bills for me. So if we're going to try to solve the committee problem of excessive number of bills, I think the first step is to take off the artificial limitation upon individual senators. Again, that's based upon your own desire and your own needs the number you wish to introduce. After all, I would remind you that you can say no to those who come to you to introduce bills, and indeed be primarily the chief author and sponsor of any bill you legislate or bring to this body without caving in to what you may believe to be are pressures that you cannot resist. If we want to adopt something, and I would say that it might be good for us, if I introduce a bill at the express wish of a constituent or pressure group, I'd merely note that when I return it to the Reference Committee, which would