

January 13, 1981

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler moves to amend proposed Rule 5, Section 5 by limiting individual bill introductions to fifteen per session.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, I think the substance of the amendment is fairly simply stated. It does nothing to affect the eight as far as committee bills are concerned which is where we stand right now but it does put a limitation of fifteen per session on individual senators. Now that is opposed to seventeen over a two year period which is what we have right now. So in other words, you would have thirty over a two year period instead of seventeen. I'm not usually this dogged on things but I just feel that this is not something that should be let go without at least one more try and it occurs to me that there are at least a half a dozen of you sitting in here who are caught in between on this one and probably see some merits to the argument on both sides and this amendment is for you. I am offering it to you as a reasonable compromise. I don't think you really want to get back to the days when the number of bills that were introduced was used for political purposes. I don't think you want to do that. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, another lesson. We are very eager to compromise after we have gotten beat. After the decision has been made, then it is pretty easy to compromise and that's what is being offered us now after this body has spoke and in its collective wisdom. What we have done is not wrong and what we have done is not bad. What we have corrected is the introduction of bills and have allowed for free expression by this body as a representative body and that is proper. Now if there is a problem and if a problem develops it is not because of the rule we just changed. If there is a problem it is because the committees have broken down in their function. It is the committee's responsibility to filter these bills. It is the committee's responsibility to combine like subject matters and consolidate bills. It is the committee's responsibility to not put bills on the floor if they feel that bill does not have merit. There is a collective judgement of between seven and nine senators, depending upon that committee. What we are trying to do is attack the problem where the problem does not exist. We are trying to fix something that is working rather than fix something that is broke. If you have transmission difficulties in an automobile you don't take your car in and have a new ring job and that is what we are attempting to do by restricting