

January 13, 1981

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I, too, would like to ask Senator Beutler a question. Chris, will you come back, please? Senator Beutler, we all are aware, of course, that this term "priority bills" has been before us at least for the last several sessions of the Legislature due to running out of time, and if I understand what you are doing here, you are placing the bills in this category, priority bills, at the head of the session rather than at the tail end. Are you assuming here, then, once we have used this procedure that you outlined on the sheet that I have in my hand, should we get down to the last week or the last two weeks, that we have had priority and that is it and everything from there on out after the forty-fifth day shall be General File as they appear on the board rather than attacking this through a priority system at the tail end of the session as we have been doing, but this is it?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That is generally correct. The concert with regard to the time period before the cutoff date is basically that everyone decides, makes his own decision about when he wants to declare a priority bill. If he wants to do it while a bill is in committee, he takes a chance because maybe the bill doesn't get out of committee and he doesn't have a priority bill. On the other hand if he does while it is in committee, it may help him get it through committee faster since the committee chairman will be obligated to schedule it first. If he wants to wait until it gets out of committee, then he gets no advantage in terms of speeding it up during the committee process but he knows for sure that he has a priority bill when the deadline passes for work on General File. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR KREMER: That answers my question. Thank you. I am going to support Senator Beutler's concept of using priority bills. All of us have bills that are more important than perhaps other bills that may be under our control either as an individual senator or as a committee member, committee chairman, especially, and I think it is much more, it is much more adaptable to our problem of not having enough time to relate to all the bills if we have an opportunity to express our desire for a certain bill early in the session, Senator Beutler, than later in the session. I think we are more apt to get what we want. I know it happened last session, some of us had priority bills that got almost to the top. We adjourned sine die and did not get the attention of the Legislature for discussion. I want to compliment Senator Beutler for the tremendous amount of work he had done in this area. I received a copy of his proposals.