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the Nebraska Legislature wants to do, that is fine. There has been a move over the past years to give more and more power to the Speaker to set the daily agenda and that has been healthy. We are taking it one step further and letting the Speaker of the Legislature now overrule a chairman as far as the scheduling of bills and that is a major change in power in the Legislature.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, under this proposed change if the bill you designate as priority is indefinitely postponed by the committee, then you do not have a bill which can be discussed on the legislative floor as a priority bill. If you wait to designate your bill as a priority bill until after it comes out of committee, you will then have the option and yet if you are not heard early it may not have that category after all because it might be heard after the magic cutoff date. I have some real reservations with this proposal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion? If not, Senator Beutler, do you want to close?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would close, Mr. Speaker, by responding briefly to some of the remarks made earlier. I think Senator Fowler misconceives a couple of points as far as the priority bill system is concerned. In one regard, the Speaker as a practical matter cannot declare an unlimited amount or number of priority bills because in accordance with the later sections of the rule the Speaker is obligated to give a full and fair debate to all priority bills declared, whether they are from a senator, a committee chairman or his own. So he has to limit his own number of priority bills so that the body of priority bills can be heard in accordance with the rule. Now Senator Fowler seems to indicate that this represents a great addition of power as far as the Speaker is concerned. I don't think this is the case at all. First of all, up until the present time committee chairmen...neither committee chairmen nor individual senators have any set power in the rules to declare a priority bill. They rely upon the goodwill of the Speaker. The Speaker right now has total power over the agenda. I don't really...it really confounds me a bit to imagine how he could have more power in the sense that nobody else has anything to say about the agenda with the exception of the Speaker legally. The Speaker we have right now, of course,