

January 14, 1981

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, once again this rule change is the page that has been passed out to you that has in the upper left-hand corner, "Amend Rule 1, Sec. 16(c) as follows:", and then below that is stated the rule change. This was a proposal for a rule change that came originally from Senator Hefner and really that is not to say he approves of it because I have not discussed it with him, but the idea came from him last year. As you all are aware, our rules presently provide that as soon as possible before any particular legislative day the Speaker is required to furnish us with an agenda. Usually now we have been getting the agenda by five o'clock or so the day before the day for which the agenda applies, so you have it the night before for the next day. If you are like me and Senator Hefner and others when you see the agenda at five o'clock you are relying upon the fact that tomorrow what is on the agenda is what is going to happen, and if you happen to have some important piece of business that you have to take care of or a trip you have to make, you plan accordingly and you plan, of course, to be gone during that period of the day or during the whole day, if necessary, if nothing important is coming up as far as you are concerned, as long as one of your bills is not coming up or something you are interested in is not coming up. It has happened from time to time for reasons I don't really know, not that often but from time to time that the agenda will be changed the next day. All this amendment is saying is that once the agenda is published whenever the Speaker chooses to publish it, amendments to the agenda must be approved by a three-fifths majority of the elected members. So at least that gives a person a little bit of protection with regard...a little bit of certainty with regard to the fact that the agenda that is published is going to be the one that is followed the next day, and that is the basic idea behind this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I guess I am wondering. I would like to ask you a question, if possible. If the present process we are under is to continue to consider all rule changes brought up before the body and continue this debate indefinitely, or if there is a possibility that we may be able to begin cloture on this matter and move toward the adoption of permanent rules and refer all following proposed rule changes to the Rules Committee so we can adopt permanent rules and move on with the rest of the business of the Legislature. Is that a possible motion at this point?