

January 15, 1981

I move to adopt the remaining permanent rules as amended for the 87th Legislature, First Session.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any discussion to this motion? If there is please indicate with your light and you will be recognized. Senator Beutler, your light was on first.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think I have as much respect for the institution of the Legislature as anyone here. Some of you have taken an interest in agriculture and some of you have taken an interest in education and some of you have taken an interest in this and that and made that your primary thing. One of the two or three things that is my big thing here is the Legislature as an institution. Perhaps proportionately more of my time has been spent on items that relate to the Legislature as an institution than anything else and I just wanted to preface my remarks with that statement because I care, I do care about the Legislature as an institution. I don't think that anything that has been done on this floor so far is in any sense out of order or inappropriate but in order to give you the true history as I perceive it of the development of this whole rules fight, let's go back to the very beginning. The Speaker has said that we have a Rules Committee and that we should go through our Rules Committee and when I came here as a freshman that was told to me and that is what I did. Then we came to this year and we had a discussion about the green book versus the blue book. If you will recall the blue book contained the rule changes that we adopted last year that have been approved by our Rules Committee, most of them approved by an interim study committee, LR 168 Committee. We had gone through the process as that process was understood by everyone in this Legislature. Then there was a caucus of the committee chairmen and they decided that this year in adopting the rules we are going to divide the question into four parts. Three of those parts put up on the gallery like little bears, three of the provisions that we adopted last year that went through the Rules Committee but they didn't go through the Rules Committee this time. All of a sudden they were up there for change. So I ask you, who went through the process and who didn't? Two of those rules changes were knocked out, the model committee rules. The recess was half done away. The bill limitation, the change we made last year was done away with and not only was that done away with but the whole rule was done away with. But did anybody express anger about it? I don't think anybody was too uptight about that but I for the life of me cannot now understand why, when you fight back through the legitimate use of the rules, that somehow that is unfair. It is like baring somebody up