

January 15, 1981

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Wesely, the amendments to our rules that this body adopted, were they presented to the Rules Committee and a Rules Committee report given to the body for consideration?

SENATOR WESELY: On those rules changes we have discussed for the last three days?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

SENATOR WESELY: No.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, we are basically on the Maresh amendment. Do you wish to speak to that?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. I will actually speak to it all but it is all relevant so I will speak in this way. One of the difficulties we have in this whole process is that we are now at the early part of the session, adopting rules with twenty-five votes that normally would take thirty votes and would have to be referred to the Rules Committee. I've served in the Rules Committee for four years and we have done it this way the first part of the session once or twice and other times we haven't and maybe we need a rule to decide how we do all these rules changes and how consistent we will be from one year to the next but the real issue here I think is a very simple one. It is the question of bill limitations and if that is the issue, and I sense that it is, and I've heard other speakers really talk to that and we have already adopted that as a permanent rule of the Legislature since we have done that in sections. Then I think maybe we can find some sort of reasonable solution to this problem and I think that reasonable solution might well be to adopt the rest of the rules and use the Rules Committee for what its function has always been and that is to screen and to recommend to the body, rules changes. Now the difficulty here is that Senator Beutler also has a good point and his good point is, well, but we discussed some rules that were adopted last year and some of them were knocked out and, therefore, we have had two sets of rules here and that has been the confusion. It has been convenient for us to deal with issues, the rules in general in the early part of the session when there is not a lot of other activities and that is an unfortunate situation as Senator Beutler lost two important rules changes, two important ones to him, that he had won last year, but that is the price sometimes we pay when there is great confusion in this body. At this point in time I have to agree with the Speaker and with other Speakers who have said, let us begin the legislative process.