

January 15, 1981

SPEAKER MARVEL: Twenty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So I need the rules and I will stand for the rules but I will also stand for the right of those people I disagree with to delay as they are doing now. I want the unlimited bill introduction but I don't want to set a precedent that stifles debate and discussion in order to get one particular point that I want today.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think Senator Cullan made a very, very astute observation in terms that again the issue of bill limitation is not what is before us. That has been adopted as part of the permanent rules. The question before us is all the other rules of the Legislature including whether or not, in fact, we have a Rules Committee. Senator Haberman asked, will this go to to the old Rules Committee or to the new Rules Committee. Actually we have adopted no temporary rules today. We are operating with no rules. There is no Rules Committee. It goes to nobody because we have yet to adopt any sort of recognition of the existence of a Rules Committee. This is the absurd situation that we are deteriorating into. This is why the Speaker of the Legislature suggests strongly that we adopt some rules so that we can proceed. Senator Maresh's motion does not, in fact, have any effect because we do not have rules that call for the existence of a Rules Committee so it cannot be referred to the Rules Committee unless we adopt some permanent rules to establish such a committee. It is that absurd. I think Senator Cullan is right in saying, if we want to reconsider the issue of bill limitations, let's go through the channels, that the Speaker is pointing out that right now no channels exist. No structure exists. We did not adopt temporary rules this morning. We are basically operating with no rules until a motion is adopted for permanent rules and so I suggest that first we need to adopt the Wesely motion. We need to create a Rules Committee so that we can hear rules changes. Senator Maresh's motion is technically impossible to implement because we have not adopted any rules that recognize existence of such a thing as a Rules Committee. So I think we should reject Senator Maresh's motion, adopt Senator Wesely's, have some permanent rules, a system and a structure and start following them.