

February 27, 1981

his birthday so let's give Senator Sieck a hand. We will pass over item #4, resolutions, since there is some information that needs to be gathered before it comes back to the Unicameral. Senator Fenger. Senator Fenger is in the back. It is my understanding that you and others are in charge of furnishing soup and chili at noon in Room 2102, and this is at courtesy of the freshmen Senators. Do I have that right?

SENATOR FENGER: That is correct, Mr. Speaker. We are not too adept yet at properly explaining in writing some of the things that we send around. However, we do offer this luncheon at noon to our more experienced peers in an effort to show them that there is in fact some talent among the freshmen class that they haven't seen as yet. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, we are now ready for item #5.

CLERK: Mr. President, yesterday Senator Newell, Kilgarin, Beyer, Fitzgerald and Koch made a motion to suspend the rules, specifically, Rule 5, Section 5, so as to permit the introduction of Request #894 by those named Senators.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, our request to introduce this bill, a bill that would authorize the State Patrol to close the highways during times of severe and inclement weather, a statutory authority that they do not presently have, now one of the reasons that this bill is being brought forth today this late in the session is very simple. There has been a number of storms this year that have created a number of problems.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell has the floor.

SENATOR NEWELL: It is hard being the first up in the morning because sometimes you don't get the attention, everyone is not settled in like they might be a little later on in the day but I will go on and try to do as best I can given these trying circumstances. The bill because of some of the ice storms that we had and some of the other problems that we have had this winter, we have had problems with some truck drivers who died on the highway. People with tremendous safety records were unable to control their large trucks. We have had a lot of other problems with individuals in small cars and so forth. Now one of the issues has been, shouldn't those roads be closed, and one of the arguments has been, there is no way in which we can close those roads. So this bill is an attempt to try to bring forth and deal with this