February 27, 1981

SENATOR KILGARIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning,
members of the Legislature. There is a letter on your
desk and I would just appreciate it if you would read that
before we vote. It won't take very long. It kind of ex-
plains some of the reasons we introduced the bill or are
asking you to let us introduce this bill and I would appre-
ciate your time in reading that. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of
the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Newell a
question or two if he would yield.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you yield?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Myron.

SENATOR RUMERY: Senator, would you explain to me, and inci-
dentally, maybe the other people, too, why we need this law.
Out our way, at least on the interstate, when the storm hits,
they already close the road. What does your bill do that it
doesn't allow them to do now?

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, Senator Rumery, there is no statutory
authorization for the State Patrol to close the road at this
time and the State Department of Roads may close a road but
the criteria...one of the criteria is not the weather. It
is mostly to protect the roads on construction and those
kinds of things. We also want to look at the whole issue
to some extent of why or when or why and what sort of
associated problems might come up and so we are not only
trying to provide statutory authority so that we have a clear
designation of responsibility of authority in these areas
but also to try to look at some of the problems associated
with it.

SENATOR RUMERY: How long has the Department of Roads had
this authority?

SENATOR NEWELL: I can't answer that. Again, they don't have
the specific authority for weather, inclement weather, and
I don't know how long they have had the authority to close
the roads.

SENATOR RUMERY: Would this include all state highways?

SENATOR NEWELL: The bill is written in a very general way
so that the Colonel and the State Patrol could promulgate
rules and regulations and I would think that that would be

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