

March 10, 1981

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well then I am going to have to object because I've got a committee that...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Just a minute.

SENATOR HABERMAN: ...is Mickey Mousing one of my bills and they have been sitting on it since February. They won't kill it, they won't move it, they won't do anything and to be punished here on the floor by some rule because a chairman wishes to diddle daddle with a bill I think is entirely wrong. Now if I would declare that as my priority bill and it didn't get out of committee, does this shoot me down as declaring some other bill as a priority bill?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Everybody has, according to the rule, everybody has one priority. Chairmen have two priorities. The Speaker's office as per this rule is unlimited priorities.

SENATOR HABERMAN: But if I declared the bill that is still in committee my priority bill and it got indefinitely postponed or held for a study or the chairman threw it away or whatever and then I found that out, can I declare another bill of mine to be a priority bill or does that go down the tube too?

SPEAKER MARVEL: You can't...I was trying to find it in here. Each senator may designate one bill as a priority bill. Such priority bill need not be the designator's bill but the principal introducer must concur with the designation as a priority bill and with the withdrawal of the designation once made, and then it goes on. Does that answer your question?

SENATOR HABERMAN: My question is...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You can't designate another bill once you make your designation according to our understanding of the rules.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: But I have one other suggestion, Senator Haberman. You must have some bills in mind and I would suggest that you try to get in your recommendations by the deadline. At least you can do that much at this time.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well I have spoken to the chairman three times, Mr. President, and we will just have to play it by ear. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.