

March 10, 1981

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, it would appear that we have set our rules and our guidelines by the rules.

PRESIDENT: We can hardly hear up here. Would you please give Senator Carsten some attention so the dialogue can continue between the speaker and the questioner.

SENATOR CARSTEN: My recollection of priority bills has always been made from those bills that were on General File and unless the bill was there we could not use it as a priority. It would appear to me at this time that we may want to take a second look at what we have already decided and maybe want to make some changes. Now I'm not making any apologies for my committee but I am telling you when you've got sixty-four bills in a committee that have to be held for hearing and the biggest share of those pretty heavy controversial bills and to try and work any amount of executive session time into that time frame is an impossibility and the human body can stand about so much and that is all and I think there are several committees, ours is not the only one, the Revenue Committee is not the only one, but there are several committees that have been really overloaded this year with numbers of bills, important bills, controversial bills and it has taken time to measure the hearing and the evidence that we've had to make decisions. I suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, excuse me, that we maybe should re-examine that which we have already dedicated ourselves to do. I think we are creating a problem here that is going to be hard and difficult to live with. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Well, Senator Carsten, one of the reasons we had the meeting this morning was to alert once again, the chairmen as to the impact of this particular rule and also to ask them to come up with some suggestions and during the discussion they asked the question as to whether we would cooperate with the committees and the answer is yes.

PRESIDENT: Any further questions? Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members, Mr. Speaker, may I ask what you say, we will cooperate with the chairmen, what that literally means?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Well, it has to do with your priority designations, rather than me determining what the priority is, you and your committee would determine what the priority was. Then this would be reflected in the agenda that would come out. That is the final say-so, is the fact that we debate as per the agenda. So all of this, if you, for instance, designate three bills, then we would take those designations after we