March 24, 1981

SENATOR VICKERS: Could you explain to the body why is it we are skipping over Final Reading? We do have a quorum. If occasionally one or two of us happen to be gone, that is a decision we make to not be here with Final Reading. Why is it that we are skipping over Final Reading simply because there are several members gone?

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are not skipping over it permanently today. We are trying to set up a procedure whereby we would start working on something and then come back to Final Reading because in fairness to those of you who have bills on Final Reading now, there are twelve absent and there are some that...there are some of these bills that are more controversial than others. It was simply an attempt to try to be helpful to those who have a bill on Final Reading.

SENATOR VICKERS: In other words, some of those that are absent are expected back later on today. Is that what you are saying?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Well, I can't answer it. I assume that as time goes on there will be less than twelve absent.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker, on Senator Higgins' comment, we must have precedent on what we have done with priority bills. My question is, was 69, Senator Marsh's child restraint bill, a priority bill? If it was or if it was not, that has been debated twice. Did that bill go to the bottom of General File? That was early in the session. What precedent did we establish with 69?

SPEAKER MARVEL: 69, first of all, is not a priority bill. Secondly, it did not go to the bottom of the heap, but those kind of bills will be considered the rest of this day and tomorrow I assure you and that is the best I can do now.

SENATOR DWORAK: What do you mean, will be considered? On the floor?

SPEAKER MARVEL: No, we are going to have to develop a procedure for those bills that do not move and they have got to go the bottom and the question is, which bottom?

SENATOR DWORAK: Will this procedure be different for priority bills and nonpriority bills?