

May 18, 1981

LB 523

we just sit and take stock for a day and see what can be worked out.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments?

SENATOR LANDIS: I do, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, we had an issue very similar to this just two or three days ago and I hope that you will take a chance to recall our solution at that time, which I thought was propitious and which can apply in this case as well. You may recall that Senator Maresh offered a bill from the Business and Labor Committee with an amendment with respect to barge traffic and a barge compact. This body was apprised there had not been a public hearing on that amendment which was adopted and I objected at that time. Senator Goodrich came up with a suggestion, and I think it is wise upon reflection that in fact the bill not slow down in its progress but that the committee be assigned the task of making a public hearing at the appropriate time and to report back while the bill was on Select File. It seems to me that because of the time constraints involved here a very good solution to the problem with respect to LB 523. Let's move ahead having made this policy choice with the adoption of the committee amendments, and at the same time, the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee can go back into session, have a hearing on these amendments, and report to us at the time of Select File, at which time then based on the findings that we have, based on the testimony that we take, that they take, rather, at the hearing, we can again reflect on the wisdom of the policy choice which we just made and make the appropriate adjustment without slowing down the progress of LB 523, to see to it that the bill doesn't languish at the bottom of General File and die an untimely death because it can't meet the various standards of time that a bill has to meet in order to be considered for Final Reading. Again the suggestion is the same one that Senator Goodrich made two days ago, allow the bill to pass with this policy change but at the same time recognize that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee can take those amendments, that policy change under advisement, hold a hearing and report back to the group as to their findings and the testimony that they take with a hearing between now and, say, the middle part of next week. That way the process can continue to move and our eight day time constraint does not become the overriding and paramount consideration as to the contents of the bill. Time should not force us to make unwise choices and I would suggest that we can study this and yet at the same time move the bill forward. I would hope that the body would adopt the