

January 6, 1982

CLERK: 29 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, obviously the committee chairmen are concerned about this extra workload. Let me tell you that when I first thought of this idea and talked to the Research office, they told me that they were more than willing to do the work and would not need any extra staff and could do it as part of their ongoing functions hearing that the committees already were following the bills, or most of them, it would be an even easier thing to have them follow the bill and put up a summary. But if they needed to they could call on the Research office for extra staff assistance if they wanted to. So for Senator Carsten and Senator Koch and Senator Schmit and others that feel it is too much work for them, I would just say to you all you need to do is delegate that authority to the Research office and they would be more than willing and able to handle that function for you without any staff increase which would benefit all of the rest of us. Now there is an indication of a bit of selfishness here because I think the body is going to benefit from having an updated summary when the bill is advanced to Final Reading. Think back to the times when you have seen bills heavily amended on General and Select File, you thought you knew exactly what was going on and you followed that bill and you did the best you could, but it has been weeks later and you haven't had a chance to look at that bill and your memory fails you a little bit with hundreds of bills you have to consider and you go back to that bill and you just can't remember by looking through the bill book what was passed and what wasn't and how it worked together. Bills are radically amended on General and Select File and it is very difficult for us without a summary to really know exactly what was done to that bill. Now why is it asking too much that some staff whether it be committee staff or the Research staff to provide us with a summary update so we know exactly what is in the bill and what we are voting on? That is not asking too much, and I think that for those committee chairmen that have a problem with the assignment, as I said, the Research office will be able to do that for them. I think this could work out very well. If you look at the wording, it does say that the committee chairperson shall direct staff. It doesn't say his staff or her staff, committee staff, it says staff. Staff means Research office, committee staff or their own personal staff. Or you could even direct the staff of the individual Senator who handled the bill or the amendment to prepare the summary and the committee chairperson would just review that