

January 6, 1982

SENATOR CLARK: What a comment. You can't call the question after you have spoken. The question before the House is the adoption of rule #10. Do you have anything further to offer, Senator Wesely? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay.

CLERK: Senator Clark voting yes.

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 13 ayes, 26 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the rules.

SENATOR CLARK: The motion lost. Rule #10 is not adopted. We now go to #11. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this rule change resulted from some problems last session, our first year with the priority bill system. What we found was the problem of when does the priority status quit? I mean, is it eternal or is it something that at some stage ceases? Well we made a decision as a chairperson's caucus as to when the priority status ought to end and that was after two chances on General and one chance on Select. It really should be the end of the road as far as priority status. If you can't get a bill through by then it really is going to have trouble all the way through the process. So what this rule change does from Senator Newell, it says exactly that, that a priority bill will have two chances on General and one chance on Select as a priority bill but after that it goes to the pile as every other bill does and gives some other bills a chance to be heard. That is the rule change.

SENATOR CLARK: Is there any discussion on #11? Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, the thought just struck me. It sounds like the way it is written, that if it doesn't pass in two times on General File that you still have a chance on Select File which is certainly not true. Is that language wrong? Or am I reading it wrong?

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Kahle, it says, "A priority bill which fails to advance after two votes on general file," and then you can just skip over that comma and that phrase and then you'll see that, "shall return to nonpriority status." So from that point it will be nonpriority or one vote on Select File, it would be nonpriority.

SENATOR KAHLE: Yes, but aren't you almost saying that