

January 6, 1982

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...by the time we adjourn." It is my personal belief to quote an aphorism, "that the cream rises to the top." It is my personal belief that if a bill that has been introduced is a solid candidate for ultimate passage it will be passed notwithstanding the total number of bills that have been so introduced. When bills do not get passed at the end of the session and they die, I think there is a reason for that separate and apart from the total number of bills that were introduced and it is for that reason that I have consistently supported unlimited numbers of bill introductions, whether they be introduced by the Governor or by the members. I would support Senator Lamb's amendment and I would support any other amendments to this particular rule change that would allow members to continue to introduce unlimited numbers of bills.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, did you want to talk to the amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, I did, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make some remarks eventually about the bill limitation idea in general but with regard to the amendment, I think that we need to keep things in perspective and to understand the true arguments. The main argument in favor of allowing the Governor to introduce bills is that we have no way of dealing with an emergency. Three or four people have gotten up and said, "Well, what about an emergency? How do we deal with an emergency?" It's only ignorance of our own rules that allows people to suggest that because our rules presently read that after the tenth legislative day any motion by a standing committee or special committee to introduce a bill must receive a vote of three-fifths of the elected members of the Legislature. If you have an emergency and if it is a true emergency, certainly thirty people will recognize it, then any standing committee in this Legislature at any point in time can introduce a bill and for that reason and because the Governor can introduce bills through a standing committee or through an individual in the normal ten day period, there really is no reason to have a special provision allowing the Governor any kind of special privilege. So, therefore, I would ask you to reject the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Nichol, do you want to talk to the amendment?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, whatever is before the House, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to ask you a question. Answer it in your own mind. Have you ever heard of this Governor or any other Governor in the past who has asked to introduce too many bills? If there has been one in the past I haven't heard of it. Secondly, should a Governor