

January 6, 1982

CLERK: 10 ayes, 27 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the proposed amendment 14.

SENATOR CLARK: The motion lost. The controversial rule is not adopted. We go to #15. Senator Wesely, #15.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker...Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the next rule change is the germaneness rule change. Now this deals with the whole issue of how we amend the bills. Now the arguments made on bill limits were that we shouldn't have any bill limits so that we can have single issue subjects in bills and not throw in all kinds of things into one bill so we can get through without overpassing the bill limit concept. Well here we are pretty much saying the same thing. You introduce a bill. You have a subject to that bill and you don't amend that bill unless it is germane, unless it is related to the subject area of the original bill. We try to limit how we can get all kinds of different things including the kitchen sink in some cases in some bills. Now if we are not going to have any bill limits then it seems absolutely necessary to me that we adopt some sort of germaneness rule so we do exactly what was argued on the floor here against bill limits. So we allow the public to know what is in the bill, make it simple, to keep it to one subject and not get up on the floor and throw in amendments at every stage that do not relate to the bill. So this germaneness rule which is already in the rules says that we can't put up amendments that do not relate to the original piece of legislation but we've fudged a little bit on that, haven't we? So this tries to clarify that germaneness is a little more significant than has been the case in the past. It clarifies for the Speaker and other presiding officers exactly what is germane and what isn't. It makes it difficult once the Speaker rules to overrule him. That is essentially the rule change and would I think try to deal with some of the concerns expressed during the discussion on bill limits.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I have opposed this rule in committee and the primary reason for opposing this rule is very simple. I don't understand and haven't worked out in my own mind how it is going to be applied and when you have doubts like that you generally say, "No, I'm not sure I'm in favor of this," and that is exactly what I am standing up to say. I have heard the explanations of why this is a good idea, why it