

January 13, 1982

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I know that Senator Fenger raised the question about the rules and how they relate to this issue and he is right. The rules really don't speak to it at all in the sense that there is no actual wording in there concerning the switching of committee assignments and that sort of thing. At the same time, because the rules are mute on it, that doesn't necessarily mean you have to preclude the opportunity to switch committees. Now I think in other cases, Senator Haberman and I talked about this, we have had vacancies that have occurred. We have allowed people to take over vacant positions and to switch under that circumstance but never for somebody who is sitting on another committee switching with another person on another committee. That hasn't been done. But isn't the concept really the same? You have a situation where two Senators have different committee assignments and after one year in this case of serving on those committees there is a mutual agreement that they would both be better served by switching committees. There seems to me that there is nothing in the rules that says you can't do that and that the Committee on Committees has the authority over the questions of committee assignments and filling vacancies and the whole question of committees and their activity. And so if the Committee on Committees as they have, as the committee decided to approve such a switch, it seems to me appropriate to adopt that committee report and let it stand with the role they play in the process and approve that proposal. So I guess as far as the rules go, it is mute on this point but that doesn't preclude the chance to do this and the Committee on Committees has taken the opportunity to make the switch and we ought to support that change.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I thought I would rise to talk a little about the reason I made the request to switch from Government, Military and Veterans Affairs to the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. Frankly it was not something that I thought of just a few days ago but I had decided when the 1981 session began that I would like to serve on the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee. When I was elected in 1978 and came down here in '79, I was assigned the Revenue Committee and I was assigned the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee and I served on the Revenue Committee for two years and I served on the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for two years. At the beginning of the 1981 session I said that, too, in my local caucus that I would like to have some new committee assignments. I enjoy working with some other