

October 30, 1981

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, let me explain what this amendment would do. You adopted a new section 15 to Rule 3 this morning, or whatever the rule was. At any rate it said that only bills introduced by the Governor could be considered. I think maybe what you were trying to do was prevent the introduction of new legislation but there are some bills that are already on the board that will touch on some of the issues related directly to this call. So, this amendment would allow the consideration of those bills that have already been introduced and let me show you why it does not relate to the introduction of an additional bill with just five senators asking. You would have to suspend the rule for the introduction of additional legislation. So, this five vote rule would deal only with the consideration which means that for that to occur the bill would already have to be introduced. The way the rule stands now that deals with this issue I think does take something away from the Legislature and that subject has been touched on in the earlier discussion but I wasn't able to say some things that I wanted to say because the debate was cut off. But remember this, those who want to speak will speak regardless of what kind of attempts are made through the rules or other means to stop them from commenting. If somebody wants to do something or attempt to do something, it just means that the bills introduced by the Governor will have to be the vehicle for all those efforts. It means that his bill might be delayed for eight hours or however long somebody can manage to do that because the body has already said that it will tie its own hands and not consider any bill no matter how meritorious if it were not introduced by the Governor. The Governor, based on this rule that you adopted under Senator DeCamp's whip, does not put a limit on the number of bills that the Governor can introduce. It does not put a time limit on the Governor as far as the introduction of his bills so what you have voted to do is say he can do anything he wants to with this body and most of the members will roll over and play dead but where it has to go out that not all. Senator Vard Johnson pointed out how in their haste the Governor's entire administration including Paul Douglas, the A.G., the actual governor, blundered because they did not see what impact the federal laws would have on the nature of this session. So probably some peon some place pulled the actual governor's coattail and the titular governor's coattail and said, "Now if you called the Legislature in session, certain federal requirements are going to go into effect and you are going to have