

April 2, 1975

Lewis' comment that in a negative sense, we can act with less than a quorum and certainly in a negative sense, the council could fail to act, also, which is what he is referring to here. But I simply renew my statement that just as we require at least a simple majority here and sometimes 30 votes, but when we require a simple majority here, I think that it is not really proper that we say that the same people that we are representing shall be represented by a lesser majority in some other function. Now for those who have home rule charters with provisions locked in that they require five of seven, this is fine and I can see where, possibly, they have no inherent interest in this bill but we do and I do believe that we should allow any business that is binding upon the citizens that it require at least half of that vote. Now the reason I say half rather than 5 out of 8... I say 4 out of 8 because that is the present statute that is on the books. It has appeared to be satisfactory but I think if we reduce that enabling structure to 3 out of 8, then I think, probably, we have stepped a little ways away from representative government. I don't really believe that's what we want in it. I am just sure it is not what is intended. I move that the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR KOCH: I guess I am just trying to find out where we are on this piece of legislation.

PRESIDENT: We are about to vote on the specific amendment.

SENATOR KOCH: On Murphy's amendment?

PRESIDENT: Yes sir.

SENATOR KOCH: Murphy's law of diminishing returns.

PRESIDENT: Senator, that's wonderful. The question is the adoption of Senator Murphy's amendment. Record your vote. Have you voted, Senators? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 15 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Now, I believe it would be in order to move that the bill be readvanced as amended.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall the bill be advanced as amended? All in favor say aye. Contrary nay. The bill is advanced. Senator Duis.

CLERK: Mr. President, there is a motion on the desk. I move to return it to Select File for specific amendment, to strike the enacting clause. Ar! with that, the thing should lay over.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis, is that your motion?

SENATOR DUIS: That's my motion.

PRESIDENT: All right. That will be laid over, then.