

April 27, 1983

LB 447

therefore, should be passed over at this time. If I could get Senator Beutler's attention.

PRESIDENT: The question has been raised as to the propriety of 447 being a priority bill.

SENATOR LAMB: According to the rule, each Chairperson of those committees which are authorized to hold public hearings on bills may designate two of the committee's bills as priority bills. Well, I think this has been rather loosely construed as being either bills introduced by the committee or heard by the committee, and in this case this bill was neither heard nor introduced by the Law Enforcement Committee and I am not real sure that that committee has authority to designate priority bills in the first place. So I just would ask the Chair to pass over that bill because it is not properly a priority bill.

PRESIDENT: Do you wish to speak on the point, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the tradition in the Legislature until the time I took the Judiciary Committee was that the Law Enforcement Committee had two priority bills and so did the Judiciary Committee, and that has been the tradition, and it is not just the tradition but as I understand it, it falls within the technicality of the rule in the sense that the Law Enforcement Committee is authorized to hold hearings. Is that correct, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: I am advised that they do not hold hearings, but then I don't know. Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, having been Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and also the other committee that we are talking about, the Law Enforcement and so forth, it has been true as Senator Beutler has said that they have...they do hold hearings. They are the same members as the Judiciary Committee. They do have priority bill status the same as Judiciary Committee, and I was always glad to have that while I was Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I wanted to cut that off after I was no longer Chairman of the committee but that was not done. So Senator Beutler is correct that they do have status of having priority bills like any other committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely. Oh, excuse me, Senator Lamb, I didn't mean to take your time away from you.

SENATOR LAMB: I would just like to continue for a moment,