

March 5, 1974

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, I was just in here for the last remarks of Senator Proud, and as Chairman of the Rules Committee may I say to Senator Proud that I believe that you have probably an iron hand, and the rules as far as I ascertain them is if you do something it doesn't take 25 votes to uphold you. It would take 25 votes to overrule you. And so consequently you can depend on me as the Chair of the Rules Committee to support you in a decision or to at least support the fact that it has to come to a vote to disagree with you. It is the opinion of this Rules Chairman that the person in the Chair has complete charge of the rules until he is overruled. And as far as the Speaker is concerned, I think that if he has complete control of the agenda, etc., until such a time as he is overruled not supported.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Let me ask Senator Proud a question. What happens when you are not here?

PRESIDENT: Speaker Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD: When who's not here.

SENATOR CARPENTER: You, the Speaker.

SPEAKER PROUD: Well, then I will delegate. I'd like to say delegate the authority to you.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'll accept it. But I'll not follow through on it.

SPEAKER PROUD: But, I think Senator that everyone of us has some responsibility, but it's been my observation around here that you know the late Senator Matzke once told me. I don't know how much truth there is in it, I think there is quite a bit. That one problem with such a small body is that we get to know each other too well. And courtesy can be over done. And I like, when a Senator gets up and wants to do a particular things, I think the general tendency is to accomodate him. And that's all good and well until things just get completely out of hand, and we are accomdating each other so much that we're in complete violation of our rules. And so this the only reason I say that. And any time anyone wants to change the rules, well of course that's their preogative. But if we are not going to follow the rules then we should, in my judgement we should simply throw them away.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, Mr. President. I don't presume there is anybody here who has violated the rules more than I have. Now why have I done that? I don't think you point over one or two places where I might have had some desire to have a preferential position of having a bill discussed. My only action is to move the legislation on that board so that we would leave here with a reasonably good record of having accomplished our purpose. Now if you are going to stick to the rules, all the rules. I'd be the last one to object to it, but I want to call your attention. You're not going to go very far. You've got a lot of bills on General File there that are highly important, and ought to be passed and probably must be passed this session. Unless you move them up you are not going to do it. If you are going to move to suspend the rules, it's going to take more time to determine that than to consider the bill. I think this body is a perfect example