

March 19, 1974

SENATOR STAHMER: I would think it is not obligatory to be a lesser requirement. We are talking about three stages of discussion. And that is the first stage of discussion, General File. I think it's within our rules to make it as difficult or as easy as we choose.

SENATOR FELLMAN: No. No. That is not my question. I don't argue that we've got the right to change the rules. But doesn't that...doesn't your proposal go to the theory and change the theory, distinguishing General from Select from Final.

SENATOR STAHMER: Well, the Final in the Select are the same now. 25, so you've got two steps the same. This would make all three steps the same.

SENATOR FELLMAN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Whitney. Then Chambers.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. Having sat up in the Chair a few times, and realizing that some of the amendments that are put on General File are very minor amendments. And if it were necessary to have 25 votes every time we did that, I think it would slow down this Legislature a great deal. So the question is, do you want to slow this Legislature down.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Stahmer do you care to respond.

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes, I couldn't think of a more constructive step.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Chambers.

We still have before us the Stahmer amendment to the Rules change.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature Senator Stahmer only has 14 days left in the Legislature. There have been four years minus 14 days during which time he could have tried to speed up the legislative process. And as Senator Whitney pointed out, many of the amendments placed on a bill on General File are very minor. To record 25 votes would require a machine vote on every proposed amendment. Some which are trifling, some which are given in seriousness. It should be a situation where the legislative process can be compared to a pyramid. A lot goes on at the base and as you approach the pinnacle, things become more and more refined until we reach Final Reading and the bill is in the form that we intend for it to be in. By that time everybody will have had a crack at it if they want it. I think again, as I said, a majority of people on a committee, or a majority of those voting are able to put a bill in a certain form. They should not be in a position to do things which will require more votes on the floor to undo than it took them to do in committee. There is no sanctity about the committee. We know that there is not in the committees, the type of power that might exist in a two house legislature, where the committee is a straining process, which eliminates the trivial from that which is serious. As long as we have the body organized in the fashion that it is with the procedures that we follow. I think it's