

March 19, 1974

SENATOR DECAMP: Well, I am aware of that. But almost all rules of any parliament are based upon ..they have their foundation some where and my question didn't have to do with how we form our rules. But I've been told that many times. It simply was, is there any..is there any let's see accepted author that has this other formula that we're adopting or about to adopt today.

SENATOR DUIS: I would not have the slightest idea.

PRESIDENT: I take it Senator DeCamp, your question goes more to historical precedence of.

SENATOR DECAMP: That's exactly correct, Sir.

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

SENATOR STAHMER: It is my belief that the Roberts rules of order make no reference of this type of thing, and deal only with the majority voting on single issues. We have a different situation in that we have a three stage affair, and it is not contained in the Roberts affairs, and as Senator Duis said, we make our own rules. The only thing we are doing is treating the first step as we're doing now, as the last two steps. So we've got three even steps.

PRESIDENT: Are you all through discussing, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, Mr. President, I'll ask my question. First I want to make a comment. If a committee decides.. Well, that's all right, the ones that need to hear, will hear. If the committee decides to amend a bill, bill amendments do not become a part of that bill until it comes to the floor and those amendments are adopted by the body. I thought this question would be asked. Now, that bill will be on General File for discussion at the time a motion is made to adopt the committee amendments. Committee amendments will require a 25 vote majority also before they can be adopted. So at every stage of procedure this means that a bill when it goes to committee, or is introduced had best be in the Final Form that the introducer wants it, and which the committee will accept all the way across the board, because if the committee decides it should be amended in a certain way, and inability to get 25 votes is going to prevent that bill from being amended. If we adopt this rule, that means a machine vote on committee amendments. Machine vote on every trifling amendment, and every other thing. And I wish that at this time, before we do something that seems on the surface to be streamlining, or making more efficient this process, we'll look at the ramifications and understand the implications of it. Mr. Chairman, am I correct in what I say about a committee amendment requiring 25 votes too, to be adopted on General File, if this rule is accepted.

PRESIDENT: Well, I think that's the Chair's understanding of what has been proposed. Unless somebody wants to correct me from out on the floor, but from my observing the discussion here, I believe that would be correct. Every amendment offered to a bill on General File would require 25 votes. I presume that there is..I'm going to presume that under the rules of the Legislature that unanimous consent could be used