

March 19, 1974

apologizing for bringing a Rule change before the Legislature. It's necessary we act as a committee as every other committee. We bring out a Rule change and we provoke an hour and a half here. We need to get to General File, so please let's get on with it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I haven't had as much fun since I took a class in parliamentary procedure in college. And the objective of that course was to continue to talk about procedure and not substance. Now I think we've been fairly successful in trying to move the bills in the legitimate way we have with the necessary majority on General File. Taking 25 votes to amend on Select File is that process, and if there is anything that is incumbering the process of this Legislature, or impeding it's progress is that we spend more time talking about what we are going to do and how we ought to do it, rather than do it. I think the process we have is fine, I think we ought to vote down this rules change. Get immediately to the business at hand, which is the budget that we have there and the major bills and quit fooling around. In fact, I'd move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: All right, the previous question has been moved. Does the Chair see 5 hands? The question is shall the debate now close. All those in favor of closing debate, vote aye, all those opposed vote no. Thank you, Clerk will record. Read the result.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 2 nays.

PRESIDENT: The debate will now close. Just a moment please, now, Senator Keyes, what is your pleasure here in that you have the right in closing. We also maybe have a possibility of the Chairs having to interpret whether your Rule change is something that ought to go to the Rules Committee in that it is another separate change in itself. I'm in a difficult spot. I need to ...

SENATOR KEYES: Lt. Governor I will take you out of that spot. I wanted to prove to this body that sometimes we do a lot of foolish things. One of them is to try to pass amendments to bills, advance bills with just about 25 people here. I wanted to make sure that possibly we ought to talk about really having 40. And then we would be in our seats on the floor of the Legislature and interested in what's going on. Right now I think the best thing for me to do with this amendment is to withdraw it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Keyes is withdrawing this motion which would of course amended. And that would require 40 members present when have the 25 votes. Now, Senator Syas are you all through discussing it? All right, now we are back to you Senator Duis. Senator Duis.

SENATOR DUIS: I move the acceptance of the Rule, and ask for the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, now it is the understanding of the Chair that you have a Rule change found on page 876, which has been amended by Senator Stahmer to include 25 votes for all amendments to all bills on General File. That is the issue before us.