

March 20, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel, do you care to respond?

SENATOR MARVEL: I...I will support the motion to put the issue on the Ballot so the people can vote on it. That's point number one. Point number two, I'm in favor of going back to meeting every other year. We're trying to...I think that based upon my experience which I guess is second only to Senator Syas and maybe Senator Burbach, I think that maybe every other year is going to accomplish as much as meeting every year. Now, that's a personal opinion. Some of you may disagree but I have a right to my opinion like you do so I'm going to support the motion to put the issue on the Ballot and let the people vote on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore, did you want to be heard on the issue?

SENATOR NORE: Yes, Mr. President and fellow members. I strenuously support this resolution 128. I've worked under both systems and I think with this annual meeting, if we don't get any rest or no one gets any rest, and I think my constituents would be tickled to death to have us not come down here only once every two years. There...they're or they'll be real happy when we go home.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The people who have been around here for a long time obviously would prefer the system that they understand. I don't understand either system so therefore I believe I'm an expert. It would appear to me that the 83rd Legislature is a two meeting proposition. There are not two separate legislatures on the annual session. It's a continuation. We don't like the annual sessions as we're operating under it because we've never operated this system, in my opinion, as Marvel has a personal opinion, I have one. We have never operated this system as it's intended to be operated. We do just as much in this session the 60-day session or attempt to as we attempted to do in the 90-day session and we didn't get it done. I don't believe whether we come every year or whether we come every two years or every four years. I believe it's the action while we're here that gets us all messed up in wanting to change it back that something that those who are vastly in the majority in this Body are in favor of doing because they're comfortable with it. I don't see anything wrong with being uncomfortable if you're learning new things, new ways to do and to move ahead. Now, we changed the Constitution to have annual sessions and I believe it's incumbent upon the members of this group to work towards that work, not work towards changing it back.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cal Carsten. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, and I'll be very brief. I wasn't aware that a vast majority of the Body was in favor of going back to annual sessions and I wasn't going to speak but if Senator Kelly has sampled the Body and that's the feeling, I have to express my opposition to going back to semi-annual sessions. If people are tired, this might explain to you why I wanted an exercise facility in here. It's not a joke and it wasn't done facetiously. I'm not tired. I'm not worn down. Perhaps the weight of years can cause a man to be unable to carry out the responsibilities of being a legislator. Some of us talk about having a fulltime job in the Legislature. If we can't handle 90 days a year, 60 days the following year, we certainly couldn't meet year round.