

January 18, 1979

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I had indicated as early as last summer I think that I was willing to support this kind of procedure. I'd share the concern of those who feel that misuse could occur with this change, but I suspect that misuse, if that was the intent of an individual member of the body, could occur no matter what the committee structure might be for review of appointments by the executive branch of government. I think my original support came about because of the things that have been mentioned, the difficulty the Committee on Committees sometimes has in its operation in the past, no reflection on how the committee may be functioning this year, but I would strongly oppose changing the procedure after the committee was named. I thought if it was to be done, it needed to be done well ahead so that the members know that at the time that they attempt to become members of the Committee on Committees, and primarily I thought that perhaps more attention could be given to some of these appointees if it was a part of the standing committees agenda and normal operation, and I think some discussion of problems that would be relevant to that agency, and the expertise within a standing committee on that same subject could be useful. It would be a misuse certainly if it was an attempt to hammer them over the heads to do certain things, but I think general discussion on the subject matter of the agency as far as the Legislature it could be beneficial as long as the members conduct it in appropriate fashion. I would urge the body to support the proposed rule change. I think it...at least it is one option that would improve the consideration for approval of appointees by the Governor, and I'm not so concerned about the misuse because I think that could occur no matter what the committee structure might be.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch, and then Senator Chambers, Senator Fowler and Senator Haberman. Senator Koch has the floor.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, as I stated a moment ago, we have two alternatives...one of them was just defeated. We need 30 votes, and I request of the body those who did not see fit to vote the first on the original language, that this time they will now give it 30 votes, and I respect that and I think this body must move forward. If the Committee on Committees cannot function in the manner which we are proposing, then we'll have a chance to review it later, and if, as Senator Murphy says, that we are interfering into the executive branch as a possibility of this, this body can again change the Committee on Committees, its status and how it functions. I ask for your support of the Newell rules change to Committee on Committees.