

March 16, 1979

about two-thirds of the bills went off of Consent File so I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that maybe you reiterate that point of the fact that the removal of a bill should be for the purpose of a concern over the bill and not simply to remove it for any other reason.

SPEAKER MARVEL: That is why, Mr. President, I stress the fact that we are going to have to cooperate in this regard and if this system does not work, then we are going to have to devise another system because, as you can see, we do have to get through these bills and this seems to be the best way at the moment to try to proceed. I don't think we are playing a numbers game but I think 'n fairness to everybody we ought to try to set up a system so that every bill possible gets at least some exposure this session of the Legislature and that is going to be a tough job to do, but I think we can take a lot of bills off next week in the afternoon as the committees begin to wind up their hearings.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. Speaker, just a little exchange in dialogue here I think would be helpful. I think I am in concurrence with what both you and Senator Lewis have to say, but I am wondering if there is any criteria that could be established for justification in removing these bills. It may be that there is a lobbyist on the outside that is opposed to a certain measure and he gets someone to carry the banner for him inside here and that individual with two friends can knock a bill off of consent calendar and I don't think that we should allow that to happen, and I am wondering whether or not there is going to be criteria established or whether or not we will have some rule or some procedure that perhaps they discuss it with the Speaker. I would feel comfortable with that, or Chairman of the Exec Board to give a legitimate reason for taking that bill off its present status.

SPEAKER MARVEL: According to the present plan, Senator Stoney, what I would propose to do, first of all, anyone that wants to take a bill off of the consent calendar needs to come into the office and so designate, sign a sheet and then I would propose to take upon my own shoulders the responsibility, at least at the moment, and see how it works and talk to the people who have so directed and then try to follow up with whomever may be involved. So I will take that responsibility at the moment. If it gets overwhelming or doesn't seem to work, then I would propose to come back to the body, but it is a good point.