

May 3, 1979

LB 221

mentioned how things happen down here. One of the reporters told him he is the most powerful Senator in the Legislature and Senator DeCamp said words to the effect that is not so and the reporter said, come on, you know you are and then they asked him about the Speaker laying over his bill on the Omaha sales tax and he said, when I didn't have the votes, I didn't want to bring it up and there was some discussion about that indicating the power and Senator DeCamp said, well I don't know but Senator Chambers wanted to lay over a motion on his death penalty bill and that was not allowed. So when these things are said publicly I don't know what conclusion we are supposed to draw but you can get a copy of that tape, video, and view it and it might be instructive but for my part I believe that any vote which is taken is subject to a vote to reconsider. I don't feel it is out of order and I think there is a straining to put a meaning on these words which we have not hitherto accepted. I wanted to be sure and cover those points.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Here is where the protection would lie when it comes to too many reconsiderations on General File. The rules allow three attempts to advance a bill from General File but does not require the introducer to take all three of them. If a motion is made to reconsider the rules say that on that particular issue there cannot be another reconsideration except by unanimous consent if that reconsideration motion results in the same action the body originally took. So if this reconsideration fails it simply means that Senator Kelly has made his second attempt to advance the bill and only one more remains on General File or the bill is dead. I think the only reason we have the contention is because of the subject matter of 221 and it flies in the face of one of the most powerful industries in this country, namely the liquor industry, and that, I think, is the issue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as former rules chairman, I would like to discuss this matter in some depth because it goes to the very heart of the Constitution. It is far more significant than liquor, who is or isn't powerful or unpowerful, nice or ugly, so and so forth. I submit to you first of all that this is a case of first impression before