

May 22, 1979

all of those things which we occasionally find to be distasteful or in poor manner. It would appear to me that if we believe in the leadership of this body, whether it be the Speaker or the Lt. Governor whoever it is that is presiding, that if we have to put everything down here in a rule and do not trust the judgment of that person presiding, then we are going to have an endless amount of rules that are really, I think are insignificant and should not be placed in the rules. The incident that happened early in the session, since I have been here, is the only time I felt that it was in bad taste. And, that is with respect to a very elderly gentleman. But, I believe that the Speaker has demonstrated good judgment this session, previous presiding officers have and I think that we can get along without this rule change, therefore I won't support it. I'll let the leadership make that determination who shall speak and have that privilege.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, we seem to be addressing the issue rather than the amendment which is unfortunate but as long as Senator Koch has opened up that door, I guess I will proceed along those lines. Senator Koch, I think the reason for the rule change is not to have to put the presiding officer in that predicament and granted this year we have been blessed this year with some excellent leadership by the Speaker, who has generally been the presiding officer, and on occasion the Lt. Governor. However, I don't think that it is fair to place him in that position. Nor do I think that it is fair to put them in that posture where perhaps in the middle of discussion they have to go ahead and try to shout or overrule somebody from the floor. Granted this doesn't happen very often, Senator Koch, but if it does happen even once, it is once more than it should happen. We may not be the greatest body in terms of foresight but certainly we ought to be able to have 20/20 hindsight, at least I have 20/20 hindsight. I think that rather than having this type of unfortunate thing happen again I think that this rule change will alleviate that situation. It does not cause any major problems. It is very simple to implement and I can see no reason for not passing it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I wish to support this rule change. It is a tool to help whoever is presiding and it is meant in that way. For those reasons and the ones that Senator Simon enumerated