

May 22, 1979

We are voting on the Merz amendment to Rule Change #5. Have you all voted? It takes 25 votes to amend, 30 votes to pass the rule change. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Senator Merz. Record the vote.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 22 nays on the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost. We are back to the Newell, I'm sorry, we have another amendment to the rule.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Fitzgerald moves to amend the proposed rule change. (read amendment).

SPEAKER MARVEL: Chair recognizes Senator Fitzgerald.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Chairman and members. We have had bills here this session that went for an hour and two hours. In my opinion, according to parliamentary procedure, the bill was not on the floor because it is still in committee and I do not see that the bill should be discussed on its merits here on the floor until it gets out on the floor. So, this amendment just states that a person who wants to bring the bill out of committee he gets to speak ten minutes on the bill and try to convince the body here that the bill should be out of committee and the chairman should talk, or somebody from the committee should talk for five minutes to the effect of why they kept the bill in committee. Then when the bill comes out of committee, if he does have the votes, it would automatically go back down to General File, on the bottom. That is all my amendment does.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Simon first, then Senator Newell and then Senator Murphy. Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to oppose my good friend Senator Fitzgerald. I knew that he was going to offer this and I appreciate him offering this at this time rather than the time when I had a bill that I was trying to raise from committee and he was talking about doing it at that time. But, I think if you take a look at the issues that have come up this session where this has happened where we have raised a bill from committee, laetrile, drinking age, capital punishment and for a limited time discussion on certain procedures on new construction for public power, those are all very major bills. One could say that perhaps those two, three or four bills were the top bills, were certainly in the top ten of the bills this session that this legislature has debated. I would suggest that it would be improper on our part to try and vote for or against a bill of this magnitude