

May 22, 1979

committee, the chairman or an opposing member of the committee.....

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Member of the committee that opposes.

CLERK: Okay.

SENATOR NEWELL: Opposing the bill.

CLERK: Okay, I have it.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body. With that suggested change I'm going to support the Fitzgerald amendment. You know one of the best ways to discuss a bill if you want, and sometimes we all know that some legislation is offered to this body not necessarily with the desire or even the futile hope that it might be passed but more for the opportunity to discuss and debate this bill so that we get some public attention. Now while that is beneficial sometimes, I think that really ought to be limited to the committee hearings. We really ought not take valuable time on the floor to debate bills that (1) probably are not going to come out of committee but is only going to be discussed and for that reason you know I think that ought to be limited to just the question of unfairness or inattention by the committee. I think that the introducer of a bill can get up and say you know it is four to four in the committee and I have tried to work with the committee and they are not reasonable and for that reason I think we ought to bring the bill back up. I think that is what it ought to be limited to. Or, you might say, you know they have been holding this bill and they just forgot about it and I asked the chairman and he said that he just didn't have the time to get to the bill, for that reason I think it ought to be raised. I think those ought to be the parameters of the debate in bringing a bill from committee. Let's also face it, one of the real truths of the matter is that if you are going to bring a bill from committee you are probably going to have done your homework. If you have got the votes you have already talked to people individually and you are going to bring the bill up and it is going to come out from committee. If you don't have the votes the only purpose for doing that is to talk about the bill and you get the issue brought out. I think that that has been adequately done in the hearing, or should have been adequately done in the hearing. For that reason I support the Fitzgerald amendment.