

May 22, 1979

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz. Okay, Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, I think that I am going to have to be on the other side of my good friend Senator Newell and Senator Fitzgerald. It seems to me that if we are going to use this method to circumvent the committee action, the least that we can do is allow the members of that committee that have heard the testimony, undoubtedly must have strong feelings one way or the other, to present their side here to the rest of us before we make our decision whether we bring that bill out or not. By only allowing one member of that committee to articulate his reasons for being opposed to it, it seems to me that it is not being fair to the remainder of the committee. All the members of that committee, I'm sure, have strong feelings one way or the other and should be telling them to us. For that reason I am going to have to oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, I would hope that this body is here in a serious mood this afternoon because we are about to put into writing some rules that I believe are very delimiting, not only that but diminishing the power of the Speaker. Oftentimes we moan about the lack of opportunities the Speaker has to exert leadership. This session we observed a demonstration of what I thought was excellent leadership in terms of allotment of time. If the Speaker knows that there is going to be an attempt to raise a bill from committee he can then set a time which is reasonable, 30 minutes or whatever, but for us to say that the proponents get 10, the opponents give 5 minutes I believe is not a wise decision. I would sooner see the Speaker in cooperation with the parties interested in the bill establish the time parameters and we live with that. When that time is up we take the motion, vote it up or down period. So therefore I oppose my good friend Senator Fitzgerald's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald, do you wish to close on your amendment?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: I think the amendment has been discussed a little and I think that it is still a good amendment and I hope that everybody votes for it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the Fitzgerald amendment to the Newell and Vickers rule change. All those in favor vote aye, those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Senator