

May 22, 1979

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are ready for item number six. Senator Fowler, do you want item number six now? Okay the Chair recognizes Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Ladies and gentlemen the object of the amendment to this rule goes back to last year. If you read the rule it says if an introducer attempts to take a bill from committee and fails, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed and that seems like rather clear lucid language meaning that the bill is in fact dead. However last year one of the people in the Chair at a particular time permitted reconsideration of that motion after the motion had failed. This defeats the intent of this rule and I have asked that we add just the clarifying language so that there will be no misunderstanding of what the word shall stand indefinitely postponed means. It means that it shall in fact stand indefinitely postponed and not subject to further reconsideration. I move the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I rise to support the rule change by Senator Murphy, and I point out that reconsideration in the instance that he was using changed the rule. Reconsideration was the tool available to the promoter of a bill. It is really in the Unicameral system about the only rule that helps a bill advance, is reconsideration. All other rules in the Unicameral flunks the bill and you will notice as you are changing the rules here today, with this rule change also, you are tightening up the ability to defeat bills. There is nothing in these rule changes that we are proposing today, or will propose, that will make it easier to pass a bill. Always we are tightening our rules to make it more difficult to pass bills. Reconsideration was the one tool that a promoter had that he is going to fast lose and I don't object to that. Recognize now that we had a bill that was in committee, was brought forward, failed, reconsideration kept that from being killed. Now we are going to lose that ability as promoters of bills on the floor of this legislature. I bring that to your attention and I support Senator Murphy's rule change.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy, do you wish to close?

SENATOR MURPHY: Only to comment that of course the purpose of this is to strengthen the committee system and to not permit repeated attempts to take from a committee something that it has done. I move the adoption of the amendment.