

May 22, 1979

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the Murphy rule change number, it is item number six. All those in favor of that rule change vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 4 nays on the adoption of the proposed rule change, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried. The rule change is adopted. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: We will go back to rule change number two and Senator Beutler, a member of the Rules Committee, will present the committee's position on that rule change.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the legislature. I would just like to make a couple of preliminary comments and then move on quickly to the introducers of the rule to have them explain in more detail what they think the implications of the rule are. Basically the rule as you know, as you can read, limits the meeting of the Legislature in even number years, that is in the short session, to not more than four days each week. Which four days is not specified. It is left up to the discretion of the Speaker. But, it would limit it to four days in each week. That rule change, by the way I think came out of the committee on a four to one vote. The committee made no changes to the rule. If I remember correctly the discussion in the rules committee, I think basically the committee thought that there were two very strong advantages to this rule. First of all it was felt that the change would slow down the tempo of the legislative process. That is, if you were meeting only four days each week then you would have three days each week in which, one, to analyze bills or to work on amendments or in general to better familiarize yourself with what is coming up in the next week and, two, to also talk to your constituents and get a feeling for how they are feeling on the upcoming legislation. So, it was generally felt that economic considerations aside it would be very beneficial to the legislative process. Obviously it is going to come into the discussion today that there is a question of economics involved here, that is the economics of the individual senators in the Legislature. There are really two sides to that problem. For those who work everyday and have to make a living day in and day out it is extremely helpful to have at least one day a week when you know that you can attend to business and keep in control of things. For those who have work that begins in the springtime obviously extending the session for another week or two is not altogether helpful. So that is going to be the basic question in this case. So,