

May 22, 1979

Koch amendment?

SENATOR LANDIS: I do, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. I wonder if Senator Dworak would yield to a question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak. Senator Dworak doesn't seem....

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay, then let me proceed then arguendo as if perhaps, I would like to address a question to Senator Dworak.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, here he is.

SENATOR DWORAK: Yes, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Dworak, did you envision this amendment operating on a rotation basis throughout the week or is it to simply fall either on Friday or Monday?

SENATOR DWORAK: That would be left up entirely to the discretion of the Speaker. We felt that the Speaker should have that kind of flexibility as to how it would operate and what days within the week we would work. I don't think that we ought to be inflexible, in the spirit of the rule, give the Speaker the flexibility if he wants a straight rotation basis, fine. If he wants some other thing that is working better that is fine too.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Dworak. With that in mind I guess I would like to support the Koch amendment. The reason being that one of the values as stressed by Senator Dworak in this rule change is to allow for the creation of long weekends. The extended period of time in which we can have constituent contact, we can also return to our places of business and our homes for personal, economic and political advantages. Now if you put those as a weekend, it is possible for every member of this legislature to go back home. But if you put it on a rotation basis throughout the week, only those senators that live close enough to return home and come back in one day will be able to take advantage of the rotation basis. If, however, you make the rule to land only on either Friday or Monday then you obligate only certain committees of the legislature to deal with the fact that they will have less time for hearings, less time for deliberation and probably will have their schedule forced later into the legislative year than the other committees that meet on, particularly those that are only single Wednesday hearing days or those that meet either on the days that follow...that fall on other Monday or Friday. Therefore, since the inequities or the burdens of the amendment fall only on certain members of the