

January 9, 1980

LB 436

the amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record the vote.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Reutzel's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The amendment is adopted. The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker, I would move the advancement of the bill. The provision has been with us for 113 years. It has been tied around our necks for that long. The criticism we receive that I have heard is that we mill around the floor, we read newspapers, we talk with one another, we are not paying attention and people come and sit in the balconies and this is what they observe. Most of the time when they get here we are on Final Reading. As the President for the body, the Lieutenant Governor has indicated many times to those in the balcony the reason for our inattention is because we are on Final Reading. Now I think most of us can remember the criminal code revision which we had over a thousand pages of and how many of us remember that that was read in shifts and, of course, as every Final Reading bill is read, the volume is turned down low by the Clerk, he speaks in auctioneer tone, we can't follow it. It defeats the entire purpose of the provision. The provision was put in 113 years ago when very few people in the state, including those in the Legislature, couldn't read or write, so that we would have the chance 113 years ago to at least hear the bill once before we voted yes or no on it. I think it is an obsolete measure. Now to those who say we have had this measure before and defeated, that is correct but that doesn't stop us, from those same people that are saying that that doesn't stop us from voting for a pay increase and putting that on the ballot year after year. We haven't had one of those for ten years. I think it is very self-explanatory. We waste about twenty-five percent of the time out on the floor on Final Reading. It's a farce to the people of the state. I would move the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I have three lights on. I guess I did not indicate you were closing so I will give you another chance to close. Senator Hefner, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise in support of LB 436, the constitutional amendment to not have Final Reading read before this body. This is my