

January 9, 1980

LB 436

fourth year here, and like Senator Reutzel says, the Clerk mumbles the words and we get very little out of it. Also on some of the longer bills we read through noon hour and I just cannot see that it serves as any useful purpose. Therefore, I would urge you to vote for this bill so we could put it on as a constitutional amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I have to speak against this bill as I did the one just before it. I used to support propositions like this, as a matter of fact I voted for one, but I think there may have been a defect in the Final Reading version of the bill and that caused it to be struck down or something like that, but when the bill is finally read for the last time, I don't think it is the duty of the Clerk to read so everybody can understand, and in these modern days the purpose would be for the individual legislators to take one last look at the bill, to read it carefully and see if it really says what the individual senator thinks that it says. There have been situations where a bill had gone across the floor, and I would not have had the opportunity to participate in the discussion as I would have chosen. I did not have the opportunity prior to the last day to really consider it, and although that last moment consideration is not as good or as productive as studying the bill for its entire flight across the Board, sometimes that is the only opportunity, realistically speaking, for some of us to look at various bills. So I will not be in favor of a proposition to do away with the Final Reading time. When the bill is being read for the last time, I don't listen to the Clerk. Those bills that I am not familiar with, I study on my own. This is so that it won't seem I am trying to burden him further. The bills that I have had the opportunity to study I just ignore until time comes to vote because I am prepared on those. It can be a worthwhile procedure to have the bills read just before we vote on them. If that is not done, then perhaps what we would do I guess is what is done on General File. Maybe the title of the bill will be read, then it will be voted up or down but there have been situations where even after a thorough debate or at least a lengthy debate on a proposition individuals will cast a vote which later they will turn around and erase because they said they were not aware that a certain thing was in the bill as they thought it was. I, for the reasons I have given, cannot vote for this measure and I hope that others of you will give it very careful consideration before you vote to do away with Final Reading.

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