

March 27, 1980

LB 741

bill. Let's look at the reality of the situation. What are we doing? You are doing two things. You are changing the Speaker's order on a number of things. Now we have decided in accordance with our rules that that ordinarily takes 30 votes. There is an amendment up here on the guest statute. That is on General File. Now it is attached to this bill. If you allow that to be heard, essentially you are allowing...you are allowing a bill to be heard on a 25 vote count instead of a 30 vote count. It would have taken 30 votes to change the Speaker's order. Now it just takes 25. You are destroying the process. The second thing you are allowing, you are allowing for bills to be raised from committee, that usually requires 30 votes. Now if you overrule the Speaker you are essentially saying, well, we can do this with 25 votes. We can do this by amending a bill on obsolete statutes. There is a motion up there on the death penalty. That was killed in committee but we are going to decide the matter on 25 votes today, if the Speaker is overruled. The guest statute, and the motion before us right now, the district election bill, killed in committee. Why doesn't that take 30 votes? Isn't that the process we have set up? The Attorney General's opinion is irrelevant. We can and must make rules that are more restrictive than what the Constitution allows, otherwise there will be complete chaos in the legislative process. Yesterday we had a long debate on 822, 882, and that debate in my opinion went a little bit too far. There was a little bit of abusive process I feel in that procedure and I felt bad about that and I am regretting that a little bit and I am pulling off the two amendments that I have on that bill but what was done yesterday is nothing compared to what is being done today and what we will get ourselves into if we don't uphold the Speaker on this matter. Please, please try to look at what is happening to the process. We have got to maintain some order in the closing days of this Legislature and this would be a real major break from orderly procedure. You know it is one thing, I think, to fight a bill like 882 using procedure when the other side has played fairly, that you can only do to a certain point but when someone manipulates procedure to get a bill heard such as is being done with the district election bill at this point in time, then as far as I am concerned, any other use or abuse of procedure to fight that is a necessary reaction. How can you play the game in any other way? Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers. I am going to recognize everybody whose light is on to speak once, five minutes. Senator Chambers.