

January 13, 1982

CLERK: Mr. President, the Committee on Committees report is found on page 138 of the Legislative Journal.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The Select Committee Report of the Committee on Committees is on two pages, 138 and 139, which has to do with the changing of two of the currently serving Senators which is simply a reverse of the committees on which they were serving. The request came in writing. All of you have received a copy of the letter from Senator George Fenger and I have responded to him. The request came with both Senators desiring the change with the Chairpersons of the committee willing to accept the change. Historically there has been a number of changes in the legislative body. Some of the Senators serving now on current committees had requested changes and those have been accomplished through the Committee on Committees. The change must represent the wishes of the area from which the Senators come. The change is designed to make the work of our Legislature run as smoothly as possible. With this motion before you, I move for the adoption of the Committee on Committees report.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Fenger.

SENATOR FENGER: Mr. Chairman, fellow members, unlike the Chairman of the Committee on Committees, I would encourage rejection of this report as it is filed and I would encourage that rejection for three separate reasons. First of all, the rules as I look at them do not allow it. Some of you who have been here for many years have told me that it has not been done before to the best of your knowledge. We are not filling a vacancy created by death nor resignation. We are yielding to the wishes of two individuals on the floor to change committees. Now any departure from our status quo that is this radical I feel should first be discussed as a proposed rule change. Secondly, any change of our committee structure weakens that technical expertise on that committee and I am certain that you committee chairman and chairwomen look forward to the day when some of us newcomers can acquire enough wisdom on any committee to be of some value. We rely very much on our committee structure to determine which legislation is worthy of floor consideration and we alter bills considerably by amendment in committee. Now if you subscribe to the theory that what is fair for one is fair for all, I think we are opening up a whole new Pandora's box of here today, gone tomorrow regarding our committee membership. I would remind you, too, that we are prohibited by law from a partisan legislature, but if we don't reject the concept