

January 8, 1986

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, next speakers is Senator Vickers and Morehead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I remember when the proposal came before us to raise the number of votes to bring a bill out of committee after it had been killed to 30. I think Senator Carsten may have brought the issue before us because I remember mocking him good-naturedly because one of his bills was one that would have had enough votes to come out of committee under the old rule but it couldn't get out with the 30. My feeling is that unless there is something extraordinary involved, it should not take more votes in this body to do anything than it takes to enact a proposition into law that is going to impact on all of the citizens. They can make an argument for appropriations bills under some circumstances requiring so many and so many votes or to override the Governor's veto because that is a part of the check and balance idea, and I don't even know if that is valid, but at least there is a rationale for it. When it comes to constitutional amendments that are being proposed, they are treated differently than bills in every respect practically because they don't even have to get the Governor's signature. The Governor cannot veto a constitutional resolution that has been passed by the Legislature. It need not obtain his signature so it is in a category by itself. So if the only reason this matter is being offered as a rule change is because of what has been discussed so far, I don't think there has been adequate justification. The reason the Internal Revenue Code is so thick is because they have tried to close every loophole or build every spot in the wall higher that somebody has either gone through or climbed over. As a result, the Internal Revenue Code grows as Topsy, and those of you who are acquainted with literature know what that means, and those of you who are not wouldn't even care anyway. When it comes to setting up an entire moral code, that was supposedly done on two tables of stone or could be done on a sheet of paper and that moral code is called the Ten Commandments, whether you agree with it or not. Nevertheless, it was an entire moral code. Whenever you find a set of rules which begins to burgeon and grow, it becomes clear that the purpose of those rules is not to set out a general direction in which an organization is to go but rather to head certain individuals who are more creative than others off, and if that is what the Legislature chooses to do, that is fine. But there are stratagems that can