

January 8, 1986

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I'm sure you remember last session as well as I do where we killed a number of bills on General File and then changed our minds and revived them. I have a memo here that was prepared after this proposed rule change was introduced showing that last year on the floor of the Legislature on General File we voted on 12 occasions to kill bills and on ten of those occasions reversed our ground and voted to revive them. Now, I think when we do a lot of that we're spinning our wheels and so I proposed an amendment to the rules that would require 30 votes to revive a bill once it has been killed on the floor. Now, the Rules Committee amended that proposal to require 30 votes only if a bill has been indefinitely postponed on Select File, to leave the rule that it requires 25 votes to revive a bill that has been killed on General File. And I think that change is certainly better than nothing and it would take us a small step towards resolving a problem we had last year where we kept switching our minds on things. I think if we spend an hour or two, even a half an hour, on a bill that is important enough to draw a motion to kill and that motion prevails, why if that happens on Select File, we should have built into the rules a provision that will enable us to stick by that decision so we don't debate and redebate and redebate issues over and over again where the body has already ruled. So, all this rule change would do is require 30 votes to reconsider indefinite postponement of a bill on Select File, leaving it at 25 votes on General File. I would encourage its adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson, speaking on the Hoagland proposal. The members speaking after that are Senators Chambers and Haberman.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I respect the work of my good friend Peter Hoagland immensely. On this particular provision, however, I have to disagree with Senator Hoagland. I disagree with Senator Hoagland because the proposed rule change makes it more difficult for us in the long run to adopt measures. I think that our rules today interpose a variety of barriers for the adoption of measures and the first barrier is we have to move the bill that we are proposing through a