

January 9, 1986

person. Why do you come up with these ideas that people cannot support, thoughtful people, that is? But, see, this is why the Legislature is such a good place to be on occasions such as this, it shows a clash of ideas and philosophies and they are hashed out here before the public, if anybody is interested. There is a record made of it, and maybe after we chew on it awhile and think about it, some of our minds may change, and circumstances could arise where you may see me change from the position that I am taking now. Senator Johnson, as you know, this is a one-house Legislature. Congress in the early days when they were talking about how to structure it, they were debating whether it should be one house or two. Well, a lot of people couldn't get out from under the English influence wanted a House of Lords and a House of Commons. Well, that couldn't be done in those words so they said they should have a upper house which is the Senate, which is the House of Lords in effect, and the House of Commons or Commoners, which is the House of Representatives. The Senate runs for six years, the House for two. The commoners don't count. So Alexander Hamilton was asking George Washington, the patrician, why do you want to have two houses. There should just be one. There should not be this division in America like there is in England. So while he was talking, he poured his coffee into his saucer. And George Washington said, aha, he said, Alex, or Alexander, or Mr. Hamilton, whatever he called him, why did you do that? And he said, what? He said pour your coffee into the saucer. He said I poured it in the saucer to cool. And George Washington said that is why we need two houses, to take the legislation generated among those commoners and pour it in the saucer of the Senate to cool, meaning that you let the upper class or the better class deal with that which the lessers put together and construct something of value from it. Since we don't have two houses here, we have to thrash these things out on the floor as they come before us. Now it won't take me as long to make my point as it did to lead up to it. Senator Johnson is requiring an introducer to take two steps in a bill...in handling a bill to even get a hearing. First is the introduction, then going through the procedure of trying to raise enough votes on the floor of the Legislature to just get a public hearing. Remember, this is not to revive the bill, to bring it out on the floor despite the committee's action. This is just to get it a public hearing and I think that it is too much. In allowing the bill to be killed, there is no affirmative action required by the