

March 6, 1986

This was the only bill, it's Senator Carson Rogers' bill. The amendments were adopted and I guess maybe I talked too long on it, explaining it, and he is the only one today that didn't get a vote on his bill. It was all ready to be voted on. I think Senator Vickers got up and said he didn't like it and then we ran out of time. I think he ought to at least get a vote on the bill. That's all I am suggesting, and it is kind of an important bill. That's it.

SENATOR CARSTEN: It is debatable and, Senator Landis, you have the floor.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it was my way of foreclosing this debate by moving to adjourn. However, we probably deserve to talk about this issue. When I get a chance appropriately to vote for 968 I'm going to do it, but I ask you to think about what consent calendar means. It's meant to be a noncontroversial agreed upon kind of a day and we have no mechanism to determine that specifically other than these, whether a bill has no votes against it in committee or any amendments on the floor and then whether or not it comes up for 15 minutes of debate and can get a vote on the floor. The notion that we should start reconsiderations of bills that fail to meet those standards simply means that we will take controversial bills and enforce 15 minute rules for them. That's not appropriate. We have a longstanding rule for the conduct of consent calendar and we have all lived and died by that and had our measures, unfortunately, talked to death, but that's the measure of whether or not it is controversial. And if it's controversial it doesn't deserve to be on consent calendar. It should be in the normal course of all the rest of the bills. I wonder whether a reconsideration is even timely at this point since the bill is still on General File, can still come up for discussion or debate, but I suggest to you that this is a way of undoing what consent calendar is supposedly all about, taking bills which are not controversial, taking a sleepy day and moving them. This, for whatever reason, means that all we have to do is have a bill come up here, and if it's controversial but there's enough votes to suspend the rules, you bring it up, let it get talked to death and get a reconsideration right after and those 30 votes win, and enforce then a 15 minute time limit on a controversial measure. Everything we do about consent calendar is designed to put bills on this floor that are, in essence,