

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

January 15, 1985

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO S7-4

The meeting was called to order by Senator Fred Van Valkenburg at 2:07 p.m. Senator Van Valkenburg then opened discussion regarding a change to Senate rule S7-4. The change would be an addition to the end of rule S7-4 as follows:

"Standing and select committees may by a majority vote of the committee authorize members to vote in absentia while engaged in other legislative business. Authorization for such voting shall be reflected in the committee minutes."

Senator Stephens stated that proposed rule addition appeared to be straightforward and fair.

Senator Crippen questioned the need for the rule, and whether there had been an abuse in the past.

Senator Van Valkenburg then stated that the rule clearly mandates that the legislator must be on legislative business and that acceptable procedure for each committee will be on record in the minutes.

Senator Christiaens made a motion to amend S7-4 as proposed.

The question was called.

MOTION CARRIED: The motion carried unanimously.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: ADDITIONAL AIDES

Senator Van Valkenburg began discussion of additional aides stating that the problems discussed in the last Senate Rules Committee meeting had become less theoretical and were now specific. The question at hand was that freshman Senator Neuman was planning to use the "rotating aide" system advocated by John Vincent whereby an aide works for a legislator for a week at a time.

Senator Christiaens stated that Senator Neuman had used the "rotating aide" procedure as a former House member.

Senator Crippen stated that he found the "aide-for-a-week" program unacceptable for the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate Bonnie Wallem addressed the issue by stating that the biggest problem with additional aides is the cost. Each aide requires new supplies, etc., and this puts a strain on an already escalating and unaffordable supplies budget.

Senator Van Valkenburg suggested that the best tact to take with the situation may be to simply have Senator Christiaens meet with Senator Neuman and have an informal discussion about the problem.

Senator Stephens suggested that Senator Christiaens might tell Senator Neuman that regardless of who actually pays the aide every person who uses the facilities is in fact an expense to the Senate.

Senator Van Valkenburg then asked if the committee should move on to the next order of business, and Senator Christiaens will handle the matter privately.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Senator Van Valkenburg stated that Senator Haffey had asked him about the best procedure for a bill, e.g., should he send it through the Joint Rules Committee, even though it has been determined to have a "financial impact" but does not appropriate money. Senator Van Valkenburg told Senator Haffey that his bill was not an appropriations bill but he may still want to go through Joint Rules simply to avoid any potential problems later.

Senator Stephens stated that traditionally these type of questions were satisfied in the Senate Rules Committee.

Senator Van Valkenburg stated that he would have Senator Haffey bring his bill before the Senate Rules Committee, and the Senate Rules Committee would then be able to clarify any questions.

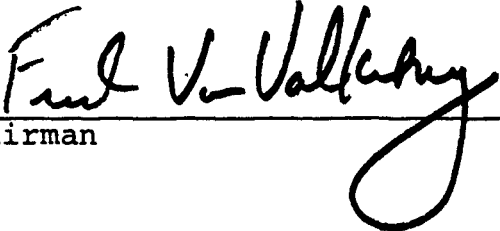
Senator Stephens ended the discussion by suggesting that Senator Haffey should possibly talk with the Chairman of the House Rules Committee to let him know the decisions arrived at by the Senate Rules Committee. Senator Stephens further stated that in his opinion this should insure avoidance of any problems.

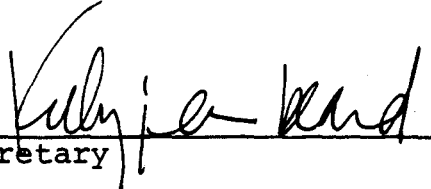
FOURTH ORDER OF BUSINESS: ADJOURNMENT

Senator Stephens made a motion to adjourn, there being no further business.

The question was called.

MOTION CARRIED: The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.


Chairman


Secretary

ROLL CALL

Senati Rules COMMITTEE

49th LEGISLATIVE SESSION, 1988

MONTH _____

[illegible]

KEY: P--Present
A--Absent
E--Excused