

## MINUTES

### MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 51ST LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

#### COMMITTEE ON RULES

Call to Order: By Chairman Harper, on March 3, 1989 at 12:45 PM.

#### ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rep. Hal Harper, Rep. John Vincent, Rep. Jerry Driscoll, Rep. Joe Quilici, Rep. Tom Hannah, Rep. Dennis Iverson, Rep. John Mercer, Rep. Jack Ramirez.

Members Excused: Rep. Kelly Addy, Rep. Dave Brown

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE, UPON RECESS OF THE HOUSE, TO DISCUSS AN INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES REQUESTED BY SPEAKER VINCENT.

Rep. Ramirez questioned the ruling of Speaker Vincent in placing HB 618 on the third reading agenda today, following debate on second reading agenda and subsequent hearing of the bill in the House Appropriations Committee. He stated his interpretation of the rules indicates a vote of the House is now necessary on a motion to place the bill on third reading. He also said he felt this was an abuse of the Speakers powers. In quoting the rules he said we all know may means shall when bills are referred to committee and returned to the House for consideration on second reading.

Rep. Vincent said he felt there is precedent from previous sessions for his ruling. HB 618 had 2 hours of debate on second reading, did not have opponents during the hearing in Appropriations Committee and was not amended in that committee. The amount of House floor time saved by his ruling will be considerable for the remainder of the session.

Rep. Iverson agreed that there are times we do waste a lot of time re-defeating bills, but sometimes we need to debate. Rep. Hannah asked if this was going to happen to all unamended bills coming from Appropriations.

Rep. Harper pointed out that the rules say a bill needs at least one reading on 2nd reading. No rule says we have to have a second debate on 2nd reading. Rep. Driscoll felt there has been a precedent on this issue during the last session with SB 103. Research in the House Journal did not confirm this.

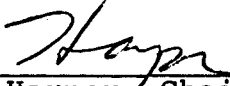
Speaker Vincent: "We have a disagreement over the rules. I don't want to force the issue. There is too much at stake here over the long hall, on both majority and minority sides. I don't

want to force a divisive decision on the rules as they stand. I would like to buy a little time to further research the rules and Masons by postponing this discussion. We need to develop a process whereby bills that come out of Appropriations or any second reference committee unamended can be placed on 3rd reading. I think we have a problem here. I would be willing to give you my word that I will not assign bills, already heard on 2nd reading and unchanged during hearing in Appropriations, to 3rd reading until the Rules Committee meets again to resolve this dispute in rules interpretation.

Rep. Quilici pointed out that the Speaker's solution will resolve the problem. Rep. Ramirez said he would not oppose a motion putting HB 618 on second reading anytime. Following further discussion to clarify Rep. Vincent's offer, the committee agreed without a motion or vote to proceed with the House session and to resolve the question arising from the Speaker's ruling at a future meeting of the Rules Committee..

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT BY REP. MERCER: Accepted by the Chairman.

Adjournment at 1:45 PM

  
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Hal Harper / Chairman

HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

ROLL CALL

DATE: 3-3-89

ROOM: 343

TIME: 12:45 Pm.

	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED	
HARPER, Hal (D), Chairman	✓			
VINCENT, John (D), Vice Chair	✓			
ADDY, Kelly (D)			✓	
BROWN, Dave (D)			✓	
DRISCOLL, Jerry, (D)	✓			
QUILICI, Joe (D)	✓			
HANNAH, Tom (R)	✓			
IVERSON, Dennis (R)	✓			
MERCER, John (R)	✓			
RAMIREZ, Jack (R)	✓			

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS**

April 13, 1989

(Today's Date)

The House Rules committee will hear

the following bills on April 14, 1989 at  
(Hearing Date)

2:30 PM in \$20  
(Hearing Time) (Hearing Room)

SJR 10

*Key to work*  
(For the Committee)

*302*  
(For the Chief Clerk)