

January 13, 1971

The Committee on Rules and Journal met at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 13, 1971, in Room 530, to discuss and consider House Resolutions and Rules of the House.

The following were present:

Representative Nothorn, Chairman, Presiding
Representative Bower, Vice-Chairman
Representative Tobias, Member
Representative Gaines, Member
Representative Love, Member

Also present were:

Representative Strowig
Representative Moline
Representative Loux
Fred J. Carman, Revisor of Statutes

Meeting opened by Chairman Nothorn.

Representative Strowig commented on House Resolution No. 1008 regarding admission to floor of wives coming in who are not employees. Can give them pass subject to other rules of House.

Mr. Carman made suggestions regarding the re-wording of same.

Representative Gaines distributed copies of proposed amendment.

The Chairman suggested that copies of amendment be made and ready for distribution for the meeting to be held this afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

Capitol Security tie-in with watchmen discussed, House Resolution No. 1006.

House Resolution No. 1007 to be rewritten and presented at 1:30 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon to meet again at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chairman Nothern.

Representative Loux commented on House Resolution No. 1008.

After discussion and further comments from the members, Representative Gaines moved that the same be recommended for passage as amended.

Seconded by Representative Bower. The motion carried.

House Resolution No. 1007:

Moved by Representative Tobias and seconded by Representative Bower that House Resolution No. 1007 be recommended for passage as amended. The motion carried.

House Resolution No. 1006:

Moved by Representative Bower, seconded by Representative Gaines that House Resolution No. 1006 be recommended for passage as amended. The motion carried.

House Resolution No. 1005:

Moved by Representative Bower, seconded by Representative Gaines that House Resolution No. 1005 be recommended for passage as amended. The motion carried.

House Resolution No. 1009:

House Rules 62, Yeas and Nays. Representative Strowig suggested some changes are needed.

Representative Gaines commented on House Rule No. 40.

Mr. Carman commented on House Rule No. 80. This was discussed by all members.

Action upon the above matter regarding House Resolution No. 1009 was deferred until the next meeting. Chairman Nothern asked that amendments be prepared and ready for the meeting.

Chairman Nothern called on Representative Moline for ideas and comments he wished to bring before the Committee. They were as follows:

1. He was interested in having provision where it would be mandatory that a bill be referred to committee would be brought up for consideration and action by the committee within a certain period of time.

Discussion followed and it was noted by Representative Strowig that this would be extremely difficult to follow in all cases because requests come in from persons all across the State for hearings and from time to time it is necessary to ask for further research and help from the Drafting Department as problems are discovered in particular bills. Setting a definite time limit would create some real problems and could result in sloppy legislation being referred out of the committee. Representative Strowig said that he would talk to all committee chairmen and advise and urge them to adopt agendas and that if anyone had any difficulty getting his personal bill up for consideration and hearing, we should let him know. It was felt, in most instances, a sponsor could request of a committee chairman that his bill be brought up for a vote. It was also stated that in many cases some of the representative sponsoring bills later in the session determine they would just as soon the bills die on the committee calendar.

2. It was urged that members be allowed to register a "pass vote" on legislation instead of being recorded as absent or not voting. They are recorded in the Journal
3. A rule should be adopted regarding the use of a secret ballot.

Discussion on this matter followed and it was noted that the secret ballot has not been used very frequently during the last several years. Sometimes committees are able to dispose of matters by using a secret ballot which would otherwise become embarrassing to members of the committee.

4. Consent Calendar was urged.

There was considerable discussion on this measure and it was noted that a bill providing for a Consent Calendar was in the process of being drafted.

5. It was proposed that the rule which requires a 2/3 majority to override an adverse committee recommendation or to bring a bill up on calendar should be changed to a simple majority vote.

It was argued that a majority of the elected legislators should have the prerogative of taking whatever action they might desire at any particular time. One consideration against such a change would be that ordinary procedure and scheduling must be followed and unless leadership has certain prerogative, the procedure could be totally disrupted.

The Chairman then called on Representative Loux for suggestions and the following were his recommendations:

Rule 44. Suspension of Rules. It was recommended that a 2/3 majority be required to suspend the rules of the House. It now takes a simple majority and it was thought that an extra majority should be required for such an occasion.

Rule 13. Journal Clerk. Needs change. Question was raised concerning the filing of committee minutes and reports. Does Rule 14 now govern this and require them to be filed with Secretary of State? It might be better to have them filed with Legislative Services and Facilities since they have an open office all during the year, whereas the Chief Clerk, under Rule 14, is only here while Legislature is in session. This needs to be clarified.

Rule 53. Should be clarified - copies or carbons. Xerox copies or carbons can be introduced as the original bills. In the past there have been concurrent resolutions and sometimes the exact same bill would be introduced in both House and Senate. It should not be necessary for the typist to have to type an original for each. Also, sometimes minor changes could be made by simply blanking out a portion of an already typed bill and making insertions rather than have it completely retyped.

Rule 72. Voting Stations. Suggested eliminating everything after word "desk".

Rule 72. Copies of Journal. This will up-date the rules because anyone can obtain additional copies on request anyway. It should not be necessary to have this in the rules.

Rule 78. Authority to hire. Representative Loux thought that it should be clarified that the House as a whole was the employer of the various persons and not the individual committees, or individual legislators. It was pointed out that this had been effectively changed with clerk selection by the Legislative Services and Facilities committee. They are now doing most of the hiring.

Representative Loux also suggested a Minority Vice-Chairman idea - with perhaps a title change.

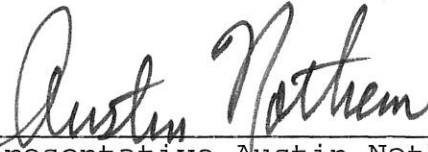
Mr. Carman, Revisor of Statutes, noted that it would be necessary for the Rules Committee to adopt rules relating to "reorganization order". This will be in connection with the Executive Department reorganization as provided by the new constitutional amendment. We do not have adequate rules to govern the procedure that shall be followed when the Governor makes recommendation on executive reorganization and the House of Representatives desires to take action thereon. Special rules will have to be adopted and proposed by the Rules Committee to cover this.

House Resolution No. 1009:

Additional comments as follows: There was a question raised regarding the time required to give an excuse for not voting upon

a call of the House. Further amendments were proposed but action was deferred.

Meeting adjourned until 10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 14, 1971.



Representative Austin Nothern, Chairman

Dorothy Dreiling, Secretary

Except as otherwise noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim and this record has not been approved by the committee or by the individuals making such remarks