

Approved W. Roy Date _____

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JOURNALS

The meeting was called to order by REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM R. ROY, JR. at
Chairperson

12:30 ~~am~~/p.m. on March 26, 1992 in room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Sharon Zobel, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative McKechnie; Senator Petty; Representative Glasscock and Representative Garner

The Chairman, called the meeting to order.

To hear HCR 5057, a proposition to amend section 8 of article 2 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, sponsored by Representative McKechnie and others.

The following persons appeared as proponents:

Representative McKechnie (Attachment #1).

Senator Petty, presented oral testimony in favor of the resolution.

Representative Glasscock submitted written testimony (Attachment #2)

Representative Garner (Attachment #3)

Discussion followed testimony.

No persons appeared in opposition to HCR 5057. The Chair opened the floor for committee discussion.

Representative Gomez made a motion to report the resolution favorably. Motion was seconded by Representative Hochhauser. Motion carried with 3 yes and 2 no. The chairman and Representative Hochhauser and Representative Gomez voting yes.

Meeting was adjourned.



TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
CHAIRMAN: JOINT COMMITTEE ON CLAIMS
AGAINST THE STATE
MEMBER: COMPUTERS, COMMUNICATION
AND TECHNOLOGY
ELECTIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KANSAS PUBLIC BROADCASTING
COMMISSION
LEGISLATIVE POST AUDIT
TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY OF REP. ED McKECHNIE
HCR 5057
House Committee on Rules and Journal

March 26, 1992

Thank you Chairman Roy for having this hearing today on HCR 5057 and also thanks to the committee members for their attendance on this important matter. This resolution was drafted and sponsored by myself and 19 of our colleagues in an effort to cure an institutional crisis plaguing this Legislature. That is the desire of the Kansas Senate to avoid the long term public scrutiny of a roll call vote.

HCR 5057 seeks to amend the constitution by placing the demand that 25 percent of the full members of the chamber are all that is needed to require a roll call vote. Either chamber is allowed to lower that amount by resolution in their rules, but the amount cannot be raised above the 25 percent mark. That would be 10 hands in the Senate and 31 in the House.

I believe the public has a right to know how their elected officials are voting on important amendments and parliamentary procedures that have the same effect as final action. The rules in the House provide for spirited debate, creative amendments and the true compromise needed for good public policy. Current House rules that require a mere 12 percent or 15 hands for a roll call vote have not hindered the process, but instead - I would propose - have actually moved the process along. Several important issues have been debated and approved by the House in the past four years under Republican and Democrat leadership. All issues have been open to the public and all amendments subject to the long-term public scrutiny of a recorded roll call vote.

The Kansas Senate cannot make the same claim.

Every day we hear of a growing sentiment in the general public of "Throw the bums out." It is no wonder considering the recent actions in the Congress of the United States and the four year avoidance of roll call votes in the Senate. After spending the past weekend back in my district, I found outrage that a bill could be killed in the Senate without a roll call vote. We have a responsibility to the people of this state to be open and guarantee the scrutiny needed in a representative democracy. The people who pay the bills should know what's going on. I urge this committee to recommend HCR 5057 favorable for passage.

Rules & Journals
3-26-92
(attachment # 1)

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
MEMBER: TAXATION
ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES
RULES & REGULATIONS

The Ultimate Perk

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear today on behalf of HCR 5057.

It is my belief the people of Kansas don't want wet finger in the wind leadership. Nor do they deserve, in my mind, governance from a dark closet. And like all Americans, unrestrained political perks are anathema to every Kansan.

Representative government remains healthy and viable only in an atmosphere of honest reflection, decisive action, and values shared in common with its constituency.

It is my feeling that truly the ultimate public perk - and the greatest affront to the values of Kansans - is to be able to waver in the political winds without action and to govern from closeted anonymity. HCR 5057 would end this ultimate perk and restore confidence to the legislative process.

I urge you to recommend this HCR favorable for passage.

Rules + Journal
3-26-92
(attachment # 2)

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
VICE CHAIR JUDICIARY
MEMBER AGRICULTURE
TRANSPORTATION
LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL &
CONGRESSIONAL APPORTIONMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
KANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT SYSTEM (KPEERS)
INVESTMENT PRACTICES

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE RULES
AND JOURNAL COMMITTEE

March 26, 1992

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and testify in support of HCR 5057.

This resolution is clearly good government legislation. People are losing faith in government and their elected officials. The current ability of Senators to hide their votes and forego accountability contributes to this loss of faith among the people.

This resolution has been needed for some time and the opportunity has now presented itself to push this issue. The people are not happy with the recent maneuvering by the Senate. I attach a copy of a recent editorial from the Coffeyville Journal expressing the public's displeasure. The editorial stated, with regard to recent actions by the Senate:

This political cowardice should outrage pro-choice and pro-life groups alike. Citizens in a free society have a right to know where their lawmakers stand on important issues. When politicians duck responsibility in this manner, they taint the reputation of our entire political process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express my support for this resolution. I urge you to take favorable action on this matter.

*Rules + Journal
3-26-92
(attachment # 3)*

OUR OPINION

FRIDAY, March 20, 1992

Cowards on parade

John F. Kennedy once wrote a book on great leaders. He called it "Profiles in Courage."

Today The Coffeyville Journal pays tribute to 23 Kansas senators. We call it, "Cowards on Parade."

This week the Kansas Senate faced the possibility of debating an abortion bill passed overwhelmingly by the Kansas House. The bill was certainly controversial, because it guaranteed a woman's right to an abortion while imposing some limitations on late-term abortions, as well as restrictions on abortion protests.

Representatives in the House had the courage to go on the record on a highly emotional, controversial issue. Many on both sides of the issue will be criticized this election year because they made their stand on abortion known.

Senators, led by Frank Gaines of Augusta, took a different approach. Gaines offered a motion to strike the enactment clause of the bill, a technicality that makes the legislation pointless. The rarely-used tactic requires no debate, and no roll-call vote — and it was supported by 23 unnamed senators. Thus the controversial issue was put to rest without the opinions of the politicians going on the record.

This political cowardice should outrage pro-choice and pro-life groups alike. Citizens in a free society have a right to know where their lawmakers stand on important issues. When politicians duck responsibility in this manner, they taint the reputation of our entire political process.

All Kansans who care about responsibility in government should call on our state senators to come forward and announce how they acted in this manner. We may agree or disagree with their positions, but we have a right to know where they stand.

Another View

Nashville (Tenn.) Banner on bounced checks:

The decision of Congress, under public pressure to release the names of all members who wrote bad checks, was the proper one. Obviously, some members whose accounts were overdrawn only a few times and by only small amounts, will not enjoy being listed with those who routinely wrote bad checks on the House Bank as an easy way to obtain instant, no-interest loans.

But the American people are not stupid. They will be able to distinguish between those who made honest mistakes or got caught in a small, temporary financial pinch and those who abused a perk. ...

The House Bank had a policy for years of paying in overdraft checks that did not exceed the amount of a member's next paycheck. But apparently the bank didn't bounce even checks far in excess of that.

All bad checks were made good by members before the bank was closed late last year. So the practice didn't cost the taxpayers. But citizens will be keenly interested to see which congressmen abused their banking privileges.

The worst offenders may lose their seats over the issue. But they'll only be getting what they deserve. Maybe if a new batch of representatives — more responsible with their own money — gets sent to Washington, Congress will show a bit more responsibility with the taxpayers' dollars, too, by passing reasonable budgets.

arha

By ELLEN Boston

The detectives ha their evidence. One woman's size 9 shoe from a bottle that medicine. A piece from the fuselage of II plane.

These artifacts are proof that Amelia Earhart atoll in the Se year-old pilot and her to add yet another fir First Pilot to Circle Equator — missed Ho fuel, they'd landed at water, they died there.

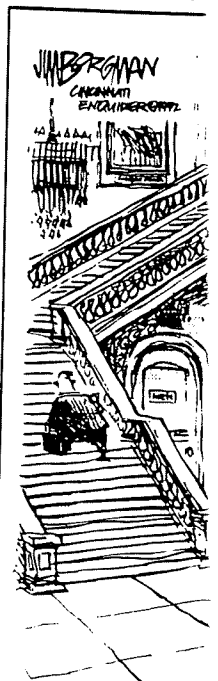
"For 55 years, her tery," said Richard Gi flotsam and jetsam o that mystery is solved.

Well, maybe. The rhart has produced a speculators and myster years, there were rum been taken prisoner t mors she'd disappear life. A few even belie Rose.

Today's Amelia Earhart scientific bunch. But u and are likely to keep t it.

Frankly, I find the Earhart's death less mystery of her life. If mained in the limelig please even her ardent band, George Putnam, her disappearing role, historic role.

She is still one of t women" who stretch b links the first woman pi



"BEAR IN MIND"

A big b