

## **Explanation of the vote in the Iowa House on Tuesday Feb. 9, 2010**

At about 10:00 AM on Tuesday February 9, 2010 the Iowa House took a Record Roll Call vote on a motion by Minority Leader Kraig Paulson. Mr. Paulson's motion was "to withdraw [HJR 6](#) from committee and move it to the House Calendar - Rule 60..."

HJR 6 is the proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage in Iowa. Iowa House Rules permit a member to move to bring out of committee any bill that has not otherwise been considered by the committee.

In this case the House Democrats did not want the marriage resolution to come up for a vote so they were not planning to bring the bill out of committee under the normal process. This week is what is known as the "First funnel". Any bill that is to be eligible for debate must be out of committee by Friday the 12<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the 2010 session. So Mr. Paulson's motion was timely in that it was becoming clear that the Democrats had no intention of moving the resolution out of committee by Friday.

Republican Leader Kraig Paulson exercised his option under House Rule 60 to bring the resolution out of committee by a vote of the full house. Mr. Paulson went one step further and invoked Rule 77 - "Call of the House". This provision REQUIRES each member to be in the chamber. They can't hide in the bathroom in other words. It is seldom used being reserved for the most critical of issues. Then Leader Paulson went the final step and invoked Rule 75, which requires every member present to vote.

So Republican Leader Kraig Paulson and the House Republicans did everything they could to force House Joint Resolution 6 to be debated and they did so in a timely manner. The Democrats refused. They are on record for now and forever as refusing to even debate the issue.

This is the telling vote of the 2010 session of the 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly as far as the issue of marriage is concerned. This was the time to stand up and be counted. Of the 56 House Democrats 54 voted wrong and should be removed from office in November by the voters. One was absent and one voted with the Republicans, Representative Delores Mertz.

Be prepared, those members voting "No", all Democrats, will offer various excuses for not voting to bring the issue forward for debate. They will say they were just following their Leadership. Or that they don't believe in circumventing the committee process or any number of other excuses. The bottom line is that they did not want the matter before the people and though many will say they support one man - one woman marriage at 10:00 AM on Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup> they did not vote that way.

House Republican Leader Kraig Paulson is to be commended for bringing the vote to the floor in a respectful and timely manner and for giving those who support traditional Christian marriage a voice in the Iowa General Assembly.

The following is a list of rules that were involved in the vote Tuesday morning:

### **Rule 20**

#### **Time of Committee Passage and Consideration of Bills**

2. To be placed on the calendar in the house of origin, a bill must be first reported out of a standing committee by Friday of the 9th week of the first session and the 8th week of the second session. To be placed on the calendar in the other house, a bill must be first reported out of a standing committee by Friday of the 13th week of the first session and the 11th week of the second session.

In an effort to cut the legislative budget the House and Senate agreed to shorten the session and made the following changes to the Rules for the 2010 session:

2. To be placed on the calendar in the house of  
1 12 origin, a bill must be first reported out of a standing  
1 13 committee by Friday of the 9th week of the first  
1 14 session and the ~~8th~~ 5th week of the second session. To  
1 15 be placed on the calendar in the other house, a bill  
1 16 must be first reported out of a standing committee by  
1 17 Friday of the 13th week of the first session and the  
1 18 ~~11th~~ 8th week of the second session.

Week #1 = Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Week #2 = Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>

Week #3 = Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

Week #4 = Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

Week #5 = Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

### **Rule 60**

#### **Withdrawal of Bills, Joint Resolutions, or Nullification Resolutions From Committee**

A bill, joint resolution, or nullification resolution which has been in committee for eighteen legislative days following notation of such referral in the journal may be withdrawn from the committee and placed on the calendar by an affirmative vote of not less than fifty-one members of the house.

### **Rule 77**

#### **Call of the House**

Upon written request of five members, the presiding officer shall compel attendance of absent and unexcused members for the consideration of specified bills, resolutions, or amendments.

A call of the house shall specify the propositions to which it is to apply and must be put into effect before roll call is taken on the proposition. The request may be filed with the chief clerk at any time before final action upon the propositions, who shall notify the house immediately.

### **Rule 78**

#### **Method of Calling the House**

Upon a call of the house, the names of the members shall be called by the chief clerk and the absentees noted, after which the names of the absentees shall again be called. The sergeant-at-arms shall be directed by the speaker to compel the attendance of absent members, unless they are previously excused. Any member occupying the member's seat during a call of the house shall be counted by the speaker and that person's name entered in the journal as being present for the purpose of making a quorum.

### **Rule 75**

#### **Duty of Voting**

Except as limited in Rule 76, every member who is in the house when a question is put shall vote unless the house has excused that member from voting for special reasons; however, such member must have asked to be excused from voting prior to the time the speaker puts the question.

If you have questions or would like more detail on the above explanation please call Danny Carroll at 641-990-2882.