

January 23, 1975

PRESIDENT: Would you state the point simply to the Chair, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. The Special Committee hearing the Carpenter - Nichol contest, a statement emerged from that Committee which made personal reference to me which I feel are unjustified and inaccurate, and I would like the opportunity, separate from the discussion of the merits of the report itself, to make a statement about that.

PRESIDENT: The Chair will sustain your right to personal privilege, conditioned upon the relevancy to what you consider personal attacks, and further caveat out ~~that~~ you not involve any other Senator that -- who may have been attacked in what you say.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This statement which was put out, I feel, was somewhat deceptive in the first place in that certain comments by Senator Warner, as well as official action by the committee were included in one document and gave the impression that the statement was a committee statement. I would first like to object to the way the statement was put together, because the part that I'm taking particular umbrage at is on page three, at the top. Where it says, and I quote, "both Senator Chambers and Senator Cavanaugh's presentations emphasized personal attack an approach long recognized as a tool used by both politicians and attorneys when their case is weak or non-existent. The committee's charge is to report fact. To consider the charge of the committee on the political appeal of personal attack would be leading the Legislature in a direction unjustified and without merit." I submit that my appearance before the committee was in response to a general invitation made by that committee to all members of the Legislature. I dealt with a statement presented in a letter by the Attorney General. In taking issue with some of his comments, I did not attack the committee. When I appeared before the committee I attacked no member of the committee. I limited my remarks to the issues raised by the letter of the Attorney General. Anytime I've appeared before the committee, or made a statement on this subject, I have quoted statutes, cited the State Constitution and the U.S. Constitution, I made extensive quotes from transcriptions of other meetings that this committee has had. Until Senator Warner is prepared to substantiate his charge and show the statements I made to be considered a personal attack, I take his comments to be only a personal attack and outside the problems of the committee. I think there should be a disclaimer from the committee with reference to this report or I'm going to take these words to be the attitude of the entire committee. I think they then would have violated their invitations to have Senators appear before that group.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett. For what purpose . . .

SENATOR BARNETT: I'll wait until they get done with this.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, for what purpose do you arise?

SENATOR WARNER: Point of personal privilege, Mr. President to . . .