

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

January 10, 2000

that request now. That's all that they need to do as far as I'm concerned--show up once a year and adopt temporary rules. I've been here and I've gone through and weathered numerous rules battles and they always are long and drawn out, and I usually dominate the discussion because I take the rules seriously. I read them and I know a lot of what's in them, but I don't know everything that's in that rule book, not by heart, but I have an idea of everything that's in there and I know how to go about looking for subjects to see what the rule book will say about those subjects, and we all can develop that ability just by reading the book and familiarizing ourselves with it. But this idea of creating straitjackets is not something that I agree with. Whether it's trying to restrict how much people can talk on one issue or numerous issues, or determine that once they've been put on a committee they cannot make an agreement with somebody who wants to make an agreement to switch assignments that cannot be done, I'm not in favor of that. We're not a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop, or Cub Scouts and Brownie Scouts where some person says, this is the way it's going to be, children, and you have to do it that way. We were elected to come down here and do a job, and some of you may consent to let these people, maybe it's based on their professional orientation, I don't know, where there's a tight structure and they've been dictated to all their lives and they're told, you sit there and be quiet, you sit over there, and they just accept that and go along with it. Well, all of my life I've had people try to take things from me and dictate to me and tell me I better not look somebody in the eye, or I better show proper respect because their complexion is lighter than mine, and I have rebelled against that ever since I can remember. And, as a child, I couldn't say things, but I didn't have to drop my eyes and look at the floor. And sometimes I had people tell me, boy, I'll slap the fire out of you if you keep looking at me like that. Now, the fire obviously wasn't slapped out of me, but I'm not going to tell you I was never slapped before, but the one who slapped me was a lot bigger and stronger than I was. I haven't been slapped since I've been man enough to defend myself, and I don't like to see other people who cannot defend themselves slapped around by bullies, I don't care what form the bullying takes. And, believe it or not, I've seen female judges bullied, and other male judges sat back and did nothing. I've seen female attorneys bullied and other male attorneys said