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(Start Belt #3)

It seems to me that any proposed rule change which will have the effect of restricting our access to constituents through the news media can only result in a greater difficulty for this body to explain what it's doing. It's going to make it more difficult to have our positions clarified in a single story and I think would adversely affect the entire legislative processes and I would certainly urge that no change be made from the present law which I know of no abuse. Now I have had some people indicate that they were annoyed that they were bothered at some time. I know no member of the press, if you indicate you do not have time or if a member of the press is talking to a fellow Senator if it's annoying at the moment, I have never known occasion where you couldn't suggest that if they would move over to the side or something that it's always accommodating so I would urge then that the body do reject this proposed change and retain the free flow of information that we currently can have because of our readily--ready access to the news media and hence to the public.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Fred Carstens, then Marsh, Proud, Stromer, Mahoney.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Mr. President and Members of the Legislature. I'm a little bit concerned about the portion of this proposed rules change having to do with restricting reporters from any area design--except areas designated by the Speaker. Now I trust the Speaker but I also trust the reporters. I have not seen any abuse of their efforts on this floor, at least not in the time that I have been here. I don't know about the restriction on the Governor. I do believe there is some merit in restricting the Governor's assistants. I recall at one session during the term of a Governor who is not now here, there was oftentimes confusion among himself and his staff as to who was Governor from time to time and there were actually three or four Governors operating at a time and I remember one time on a consideration of a bill, one of them set up a command post opposite where Senator Mahoney is sitting. Now Senator Mahoney was not there, but anyway he set up a command post like a commanding general complete with field tables, assistants; I do not know whether he had a telephone but he had ample su--an ample supply of note paper which he passed on to a member of the Legislature who is no longer here and who then made appropriate changes in connection with some bill back and forth--this went on for about an hour or two hours but that was a clear abuse of the prerogatives of the Governor. Now this was also carried on from time to time during this administration. I have not seen this during the present administration. I sit a little bit further forward now and I can't see everything so there may be things going on that I don't know about but as far as the ne--restricting the news, the reporters; now if they're my friends, I'd like to have them around and if they're my enemies, I like to have them where I can see them so I, I think probably that the--until there is more evidence that they are abusing their privileges, it is a kind of a handicap because occasionally when we say something that doesn't make sense, they do help us in clarifying these unintelligible statements before they go out to the public and they are kind enough oftentimes to ask us for a little bit of--more information and a little bit of clarification so this kind of worries me because we're all inclined to be a little bit obtuse occasionally in what we say and until they, until they abuse this privilege, I believe we ought to leave them alone.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh, then Proud, Stromer, Mahoney.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I think Senator Duis is leaving and I have a question for him, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Duis, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR MARSH: For a point of clarification--