

April 11, 1973

SENATOR STROMER: Do you yield?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR STROMER: Senator Warner, what specifically in this rule change would hinder your relationship with the press and also would hinder any, as you say, free flow of information?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Senator Stromer--

SENATOR STROMER: --or are you reacting to something that isn't there?

SENATOR WARNER: No, because the mere fact that you're saying, restricting the press as the rule presently reads, to those areas designated by the Speaker, would serve no purpose unless the intent is to restrict the area and the way it would affect the free flow of information as Senator Carstens also pointed out, is the fact that at least in my experience, the greatest number of times that I have any contact is for clarification of something I might have said on the floor and those are opportunities which I appreciate and they're opportunities which I think are important to every member of this body in that his or her statements are accurately reflected to the extent they can be to those whom we serve which in essence is the whole State.

SENATOR STROMER: Well I think much time was spent and I know Senator Mahoney and I worked to put some things together as far as some of the areas where we had heard complaints and I think this was discussed in Executive Committee meeting and I would favor the rules change as was amended by the Rules Committee. I think that the changes that the Rules Committee made were appropriate enough to allow for some of the flexibility and to allow for some of the fears that Senator Warner and Senator Carstens have already indicated. I think that it would not provide for any kind of restriction and I think that before long, if we're not carefule pretty soon, the floor and the sides of the balcony are going to be overrun by people with various kinds of requests and pretty soon that we are not going to be able to effectively and efficiently do our work here on the floor so I think some of these restrictions are necessary and I would like to see us pass the rule as amended by the Rules Committee.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Mr. President, I did not have the knowledge that, this morning that this amendment was coming up but Senator Stromer and myself were given the job of, by our Chairman of our Executive Board, Senator Carpenter, to look into some complaints that had come; oh, at first it started concerning the Governor's representative and secondly about students that were crowding underneath the balcony and then thirdly, when the press got into the act and so then all three brought the Chairman to the point that he believes in a very democratic committee so he assigned some of our members to some things and then he gave Senator Stromer and I this job which is not an easy one to take because we would have to come back and recommend to the Rules Committee which, the Rules Committee received this recommendation of all three; but I can see this morning by listening to the debate that Senator Marsh is not to be happy unless she has her student helpers and I can see where rightfully she is entitled to them and they're not costing the State any money and I can see that where I sit here from the front, I have easy access to the press and I'd be the last one to tell them that they can't go wandering around because when they want some information, they just look over their bar there and tell me exactly what they're seeking and so I would have to say Senator Stromer, I think that we ought to