

of committees would allow purposeless witch hunts where it was clear that an individual was just being gone after for no reason other than to grind an ax--I don't think the committee would allow that to go on. Also, I've noticed very few if any instances of the press taking up such a thing if it has been done before and blazing things across the headlines or anywhere else in the paper where irresponsible groundless charges or accusations were made during the committee hearings about a private citizen. Now it's one thing to protect a private citizen from unjustified attacks and it's another thing to take a person in public life whose conduct may be under investigation by a legislative committee. Suit could be filed for the purpose of preventing complete and thorough investigations by a legislative committee so I think this immunity is necessary. There might be a possibility of an abuse but I think because of the nature of legislative work, this type of immunity is necessary.

(End of Belt #21)

(Begin Belt #22)

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, did you wish to be recognized now? We still have before us the Carpenter amendment to the Goodrich amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: I think perhaps, my question would be either of Senator Carpenter or Senator Snyder who have talked with the Attorney General. And my question is, how broad is the interpretation of the words spoken when conducting an investigation? Is that assumed to be the words spoken only at a regular scheduled committee meeting or is it assumed that an individual who is a member of a committee could on his own issue all kinds of press statements and not then be liable for those kinds of conditions or is this intended to be things, or words which are spoken only during official proceedings by a committee? Or a sub-committee for that matter.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter, do you care to respond?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, in my judgment this amendment was written very carefully and it only has to do with the words spoken during the conducting of an interim study committee or any official business authorized by this Legislature outside of this room.

SENATOR WARNER: Would I be correct, Senator Carpenter, that it would not, I would not be able to go out and tomorrow on my own even though I was a member of a study committee on banks say, I could not go out tomorrow and make some liable charge against a banker just because I happened to be a member of a study committee that was studying this?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Absolutely not, the bill doesn't permit that.

SENATOR WARNER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now let me say this, my friends, that you don't have to be guilty of libel to get in court to prove that you're not. If I didn't have anything for it, I wouldn't give a damn about it. Unfortunately I do. And I don't know what the Senator is talking about, witch hunt. I wish he'd be more specific if he could and I think he owes this body at least that much information because in the area of the chairman of the Executive Council I've never had a hearing for example any that I know of without it being authorized first by the Legislature and by a majority of the members of the committee which I'm a part of and I only act as the chairman. Now if you