

February 25, 1974

SENATOR SYAS: Well, I too rise as a point of personal privilege to get a few things straight.

PRESIDENT: State your point.

SENATOR SYAS: I don't think there's anything in the rules one way or the other on this, frankly. When we.....

(End of Belt #2)

(Begin Belt #3)

opened the meetings up, we opened them to the press. Concerning the three young people that sat in the back there, that was done by committee action, by permission of the committee. Bear in mind that Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Fellman didn't ask permission, they just walked in. Now, in 22 years, we have never had this before. I've never been confronted with this before. We did not vote on it and no one was exactly run out. However, we didn't...I guess the committee would be safe to say didn't care too much about it. The bill's that they were interested in or had already been taken care of, but, of course, they had no way of knowing that. I'm appreciative that it's brought up. Because I think we should have a rule on it one way or the other. And for Senator Lewis, who wasn't there, and probably knows very little about it, like he doesn't know too much about a lot of things around here. I can appreciate Senator Cavanaugh and Senator Fellman getting into the act. Now, we're going to have to have a rule on this but always before in all the committees I've ever been on that it takes a committee action to let somebody in other than the press. There was no committee action taken at this particular time and they weren't excluded. However, I was hopeful they would be but as I say what they were interested in, they had already been taken care of. They walked in and didn't ask anybody. He just sat down. Now, I want the senators to think about something. How are you going to like it if you're going to open this up to all committee members of all committees and you're in executive session and somebody, the introducer of the bill or somebody else, comes in and looks over your shoulder while you're giving your arguments for and against. I mean, how far are you going to go? I'm willing to abide by the rules but let's make a rule one way or the other. If you want to create a mess, let's create a rule to create one but right at the moment, the rules are silent. My committee is as much in the right as Senators Fellman and Cavanaugh since there's absence of any rule.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, Mr. President, the executive board of which I happen to be chairman, transacts as much important business as any committee in this Legislature. We don't bar anybody any time. Now, I have sat through this state many, many times and I didn't realize this existed. If this was the most awful open political body within this country and that's the way it ought to be and I would agree that probably the people, for example, who are not members of the Legislature, they shouldn't be there. But if the press is there, how can any committee say the senators can't be there? By what method do you make up your mind to exclude us from your deliberation by what you say and what your contentions are? I don't understand it. I never even dreamed that such a condition would exist. So, I would hope, Mr. President, that a Rules Committee would meet as soon as they could. Probably isn't too necessary now because the committee hearings are all over with but that's one thing I like about this Body now. It hasn't always been that way. Everything