

January 8, 1979

hanging around with the people in here. If anything, he will tarnish what little he may have and some people said that he may not have a crown, because if he can't even keep all of his hair, then how in the world is he going to earn a crown. So I think that we ought to spare all of us a problem by doing away with this attempt to impose one particular view of religion on everybody, but if you insist on doing it, at least you ought to take the salary away. There is not universal approval and accord with what has been done by the Legislature and is being attempted now. This is my last point. I have to say that I was somewhat naive around here the first day because another scheme was being worked, a game was being played and I thought that something may be sacred to these who always come in here praying and going on, but even the chaplaincy, even the chaplaincy, was a part of the bartering. So maybe next time instead of standing up here and praying to Christ to save souls, the chaplain ought to say something like this because everything is for sale, sixty (auctioneer chant), sold to the highest bidder, but for my part, I think we ought to do away with all of it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I believe we have all received a copy on our desk with Senator Chambers', I assume, initials which circulated this particular letter by one of the applicants for the Chaplain's position, Mr. Alvin M. Petersen, and as a member of the retiring Executive Board who by a majority vote selected Mr. Petersen for Chaplain for the Legislature, I do think that a very important point is made in the last paragraph of the letter submitted by Pastor Petersen and I think we, as a body, are entitled to some explanation on why the change was made. I did read a newspaper account this weekend that was indicative that a poll had been taken among the legislators and there was a greater preponderance of support for Chaplain Palmer than for Reverend Petersen, and if that is the case, perhaps one of the members, perhaps Senator Lewis, as Chairman of the Executive Board, could explain that but I would like to read the last paragraph of Reverend Petersen's letter for those who have not as yet seen that. It reads and I quote, "In view of what has transpired, I, as a private citizen, ask that an explanation be made to the members of the Legislature for the failure to act on the position of Chaplaincy on January 3, 1979 and that this information be made public before the position of a permanent Chaplain for this session of the Legislature is filled", and I feel, as a member of the Legislature, that we all are