

January 8, 1979

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Chambers, would you care to close on your motion?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator DeCamp did raise an interesting point which is not one that I had not considered, Senator DeCamp, and knowing your sharp mind, I knew you would bring it forth. So maybe we could work out some kind of accord should this event occur, and if I should be named Chaplain, perhaps at that time I would give serious consideration as to which position would be the most important but I think the vote might be indicative, I say again, of how serious or how trifling this whole matter is. If you want to reduce it to what Senator DeCamp invited you to reduce it to, an issue of seeing whether I will resign from the Legislature, which he promised to do if he was wrong on the abortion issue and he was wrong, but he is not going to resign, you can vote that way. But I am telling you again that the way you deal with this issue shows me what you think of your religion. You know what I think of it, nothing. You know when I think about it, as little as possible. Then why do I talk about it, because every day you force it in my face. As for television time, Senator Lewis is the one who postures in front of the camera. I watch him and I find it highly entertaining and amusing because he knows exactly which camera to look at. Why, he tucks his vest down over his girth. He puts his cigar between his lips. He knows when to clench it with his teeth and talk and when to take it out and make a dramatic pause to the camera and smile and make certain that he is getting his best side. Then he looks about the Legislature and condescends to lecture the body. So if I have learned anything about television presentation, I have learned from my good colleague, Senator Lewis, who is a past master of it. But now back to the issue, remember what you are voting here, in my opinion and I think my opinion is important to all of you just like some of your opinions are very important to me on issues that I think you have some knowledge and expertise about. If you think that religion means something, you ought to do away with the entire matter, because by not doing away with it, you are going to allow me to continue handling it in this way, which if I were a religious person, I would concede is sacrilegious. But would you consider it sacrilegious to laugh at Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck? No, you wouldn't because you don't view them as I do, but if Mickey Mouse and Donald are the ones that I believe in, everytime you laugh you offend me but do you care. Maybe when you say in the name of Jesus, if I were Hebrew, if I were anything other than a Christian, perhaps you offend me. Maybe I want you to say Allah. Maybe I want you to say Jehovah. Maybe