

April 3, 1979

LB 52

SENATOR FOWLER: Okay.

SENATOR DeCAMP: It's a good amendment.

SENATOR FOWLER: This amendment's acceptable. I would say it's a minimal step as far as limiting the ability of the Bar Association to draw on their dues to help form their commercial venture, and I think we should at least adopt this.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is...do you want to clear the board, Mr. Clerk? Senator Chambers, do you want to speak to the third amendment...the third Fowler amendment is what we're working on?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, yes and I want to speak to the Bar Association at the same time, Mr. Chairman. When the Bar Association adopts such a highhanded attitude and posture and tries to intimidate and bully the Legislature, it does warrant and receive my contempt. This is the very kind of thing which makes it difficult for me to decide to take the Bar exam and to join that perfidious organization. Look at the kind of people you are compelled to be associated with in order to practice the loftiest profession in America. That is hogwash. There are lawyers sitting in this body who would not belong to the Bar Association if they didn't have to, but not one of them, nor a group of them collectively in this state has the nerve or the stomach to challenge this imposition of the will of seven generally old men on you, and your livelihood, and if you have sons and daughters, you have to tell them that the only way you can grovel, you're allowed to go into the courtroom and grovel, is to grovel first by joining an organization with which you may not even agree. They extort money from you. This is why people see lawyers as thieves. Their association deals with them as a thief. It will withhold your attempt or opportunity to earn a livelihood unless you join this organization. The lawyers ought to do like the Quakers and keep their hat on in the presence of the court and the Bar Association, and say they only take their hat off to God. Oh but I forget, I forget, the court and the judges are God to the lawyers. You ought to watch them walk in there and the awe that comes into their voice when they refer to the judge as Your Honor, and he's subject to call them by their first name. I've seen this happen. Somebody needs to say what this vindictive profession really is all about. So now I'm in a bind and a quandry. Here we have an amendment that is attempting in a very modest fashion to do what the Bar Association has