

April 8, 1980

LB 820

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, and I'm afraid there will be a few more before it is over.

SENATOR SPEAKER: I think we have had our share today but go ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: More than our share and I hope that didn't come out of my time, but for Senator Lewis...

SPEAKER MARVEL: I will give you two minutes extra.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you...it was "If only this gift our God would gie us, to see oursels as others see us." And it was a lady sitting in church with a louse crawling about her face and her ear and she felt that she looked beautiful and felt everybody was looking at her because of how beautiful she looked but there was the louse and that is why that individual thought what was Senator Lewis mangled but sometimes I think we need to have some rough, knock down, drag out confrontations on the floor of the Legislature, those of us who are situated as I am often on the losing side, are as concerned about a legislative record existing as we are about the final outcome of the vote. There was an individual, Senator Lewis, who felt that there was not a system of justice in this country which did not regard persons and he finally came to the conclusion that he had as perfect a chance at justice as anybody else's, a perfect poor man's chance and we know that the bills which ride through this Legislature on greased skids are bills which are supported by well-heeled, well-monied lobbyists and for us to say anything other than that is to engage in a dishonesty that we all are aware is dishonest and it is always amazing to me that individuals elected supposedly on a basis of equality can be intimidated by somebody standing on the floor and raising his voice and, Senator Lewis, I like your challenge. If there is a need for new leadership, have at it. Well a lot of people feel that the leadership hasn't been what it ought to be and if I decide that I am going to seek a leadership position and suffer the slings and arrows of an unkind legislative fate but I will wear my armor on my back at that time. I might decide to do such a thing and have a lot of fun at it and expose a lot of what happens in the Legislature. We have got to have some people on the floor of this Legislature who will be that voice of dissent which is not going to be stilled either through threats by the lobbyists or anybody else talking about good luck with your reelection or whatever other methods they use, any kind of intimidation. We have got to be able to stand on this floor as forty-nine people whose job it is to enact wise and fair laws but since it has

9662