

April 9, 1980

SENATOR MURPHY: Well I just wish to comment, Mr. President, to Senator Wesely that he may have no need for his alarm over Mr. Greenholtz's appointment, Senator Powers tells me that Mr. Greenholtz is seriously considering accepting appointment as the personnel director at St. Mary's convent.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I had not intended to speak on this issue. In fact I have not fully made up my mind on what I will do on this vote, even at this very moment. But I am responding to some points that Senator Venditte made. I think that they might be enlightening also to members of the body about what my questions and what my actions were on the committee. Basically I asked Mr. Greenholtz a couple of questions. I would like to read those to you so you fully understand what those questions were. "Mr. Greenholtz, I guess you are aware that there has been a lot of discussion, a lot of calls and comments and so forth and that your appointment has become rather controversial." That is not a very damning statement. Mr. Greenholtz responds, "I understand that sir." As I am sure he does understand. Senator Newell: "In fact I would like to say that I have received more calls on your appointment than probably all other appointments combined." That is not a very damning statement either. Senator Newell: "John, I'm sure that you are aware that what the core of the problem is that many people, many people, not me, have indicated that you are harsh, unfeeling, sometimes coarse and let me leave it at that, and those are basically the core of the arguments or the discussions that are brought up in regard to your actions. How would you respond to that?" Mr. Greenholtz responds, he has been active in the parole system for 35 years and in the penal system for 35 years. In that time you can make some enemies, as I well understood. Senator Newell asks, but the problems that many people have communicated to me is that you admonish, you are scolding, you are dehumanizing, you are over reaching and in fact it is similar to an analogy you used of scolding a child. These people are not, in fact, children but adults. There in, I think, lies the great extent of the core of the opposition. Those are my, I tried to paraphrase opposition. Lastly, "John, I'm surprised that nobody else has had any comments. I have had both quite a few negative comments and some positive comments. You have very powerful friends and you have very determined enemies, which is not all bad." Senator Venditte, did you hear that? This is the part that you had not underlined. I'll read it again. Senator Newell: "John, I'm surprised that nobody else has had any comments. I have had both quite a few negative and there