

January 10, 1985

sometimes reluctantly. As I say, I probably should be supporting this because I've got a little more seniority than some other folks do. But I think that would be a poor way to select people simply because they have been here longer. That is like saying that somebody that is 50 years old is therefore twice as smart as somebody that is 25. Well since I'm crowding that 50, I can tell you that is not true. I'm twice as dumb as I was when I was 25. But anyhow I think this is not a good idea. I believe the body should reject this motion to change the rules in this fashion.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, it is impossible to discuss a proposition like this without becoming philosophical and attaching at the same time a certain degree of reality. Senator Abboud mentioned what happened yesterday with reference to committee assignments. I will mention what happened with reference to election of chairpersons. There is no need in Senator Vickers or anybody else yapping about ability or competence or expertise. Those things count for nothing down here. What seniority would do is protect an individual, like me, who happens to be black and was victimized yesterday by racism and white supremacy. There is no white senator on this floor who has ever been on this floor, who will ever be on this floor, who will have spent the amount of time I have in this Legislature, will have achieved as much as I have achieved, will have demonstrated ability as I have demonstrated it and be dealt with in as shoddy a fashion as I have been dealt with for 14 years. So there is no need in us pretending that we don't know why things happen. Who would ever think that a man, such as myself, who had been the backbone of a committee for 14 years, could not be considered seriously for chairmanship, and that a man, I wish Vard Johnson were here, who has often referred to me as the conscience of the Legislature, all of the things he said about Hoagland yesterday, Vard Johnson has said about me. Then you can listen to people take credit for things they have not done. Vard Johnson and Senator Hoagland talked about the impeachment, and Vard talked about the heat he took on that. I was the first one to raise the possibility of an impeachable offense. I was the one who offered the resolution, and neither Senator Johnson, Senator Hoagland, or for that fact anybody would sign on with me. As a matter