

January 10, 1985

more classic battles than anybody, but the single most blatant abuse has been to repeatedly, deliberately, systematically make sure that one of the most talented individuals in the state, and at times one of the most obnoxious, has been denied chairmanship of any major committee of this Legislature. I happen to think that is an atrocity. I don't have the individual ability to correct it. However, my final theme, and my main theme is if you are going with a seniority system do it all the way, or do it not at all.

PRESIDENT: We are speaking on the DeCamp amendment to the Abboud amendment. The next...Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak on this motion? Very well. Senator Schmit and Senator Chambers then.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in the same way that the moral tone of the Legislature was set yesterday, I have to set the tone of the kind of approach I'm going to take this session, today. I have to continue to deal with realities that occurred because I was very offended yesterday at some of the things that were said. Do you all know while Senator Johnson was up here, telling you all how much heat he took on the expense issue, that every time it came before the Executive Board I was frantically called to come defend the issue, me, to take the heat and fall out with Senator Lamb and Senator Hefner. They can tell you that I came down there with both barrels blazing. You know where I am at a disadvantage, and to some extent Senator Higgins is, but I don't want to draw her into this too completely, I believe what I believe, and even people who stab me in the back know that if they are on an issue that I believe in I won't get off that issue simply because they, as a back-stabber, happen to be on it too, and they know it and they play on it and they trade on it. But there come times when they can't look me in the eye. We will see each other and they know what they have done, and they know that I know. But when we talk in generalities, especially for new people, it may be difficult for them to understand the depth of certain emotional and psychological reactions. So I went through a few things, that I thought might be significant, that if I had known that I was going to be ambushed by Vard Johnson, who professed so much respect for me in the past, I would have been prepared for it. But you can't ambush somebody if you tell them. They couldn't have ambushed Cal if they had told him. So they did what