

January 10, 1985

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I made it very clear. Either don't adopt anything, which is Chris' proposal, it is a half measure, or adopt a totally different system, the system of seniority which is used and has been used for a couple hundred years at the federal level and is used in most state governments. I don't say that is a good system. I don't say that is a bad system. I just say don't do half a system which is what Senator Abboud's proposal is. It is a half a system that will create chaos, undo everything you are doing. I also said, and I repeat, any system has weaknesses. Our current system, in my humble opinion, has the weakness, probably more than just about any other system, that with a viciousness, a ruthlessness and in fact a dishonesty it does at times, with some degree of regularity, punish those who have served the best and does the opposite for some others. That is the system we have. Whether seniority would result in similar things, I don't know. But don't adopt half a system. If you reject my amendment, and I give you no advice as to which way to go, then reject the balance of the proposal by Senator Abboud. Do not go halfway. That is all I am suggesting.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, before you close, Senator Schmit would like to ask a question.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator DeCamp, since Senator Warner is the senior member of this body and I am number two, do I and 20 of the other legislators need to declare a conflict of interest before we vote on this because, obviously, we are going to be voting in our own self-interest. I think you should explain that a little bit here.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, it is my belief, as I've repeatedly stated, that there isn't a member here that regularly doesn't have something that somebody else can call a conflict of interest, whether it be the farmer worried about his property taxes, the teachers worried about teacher salaries, an old woman, older woman concerned about beer or something like that. So, yes, you may well have a conflict.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the DeCamp amendment to the Abboud amendment. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Voting on the DeCamp amendment to the Abboud rule change proposal. Have you all voted? Clerk will record. Record vote requested.