

January 14, 1985

Official Conduct shall be under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rules of the Legislature, which committee shall have authority after notice and a public hearing to prescribe and publish such regulations as its members believe are necessary to implement the Code of Official Conduct." Senator Beutler, I would like to ask you a question about this. What is the punishment for violating this Code of Ethics?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That is what the Rules...that is what the Legislature itself, through its Rules Committee, through the Executive Board, and through your opportunity to vote at the beginning of next session, will decide.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Then if I was accused of violating the Code of Ethics, there would be a public hearing on that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No. Not necessarily...

SENATOR HIGGINS: Would it be a closed hearing?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Not necessarily. Probably not.

SENATOR HIGGINS: It would be a hearing before the Rules Committee?

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right. That is the way it is handled in the United States Congress. That's...

SENATOR HIGGINS: And the press would be...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the way it is handled...that's the way it is handled everywhere that I can think of where they have a Code of Ethics.

SENATOR HIGGINS: And the press would be present?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know how they handle it in different places, how they conduct that, Marge, but that would be something that we would decide ourselves how we wanted to do that.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, speaking...thank you, Senator Beutler, speaking, quite frankly, from my standpoint I think all of us know that you can take a man and accuse him of rape and give him a trial and if he is found "not guilty" he