

January 8, 1986

because they are not common practices that I can vote for these codes of ethics and intend to do so. It seems to me that as I read those sections I will know what to do and what not to do. There are clear standards and rules in there for me to follow and if it gets into one of the areas of gray ambiguity, it tells me to decide on the matter as best I can on the side of right, on the side of public disclosure, on the side of bringing something to life, on the side of not making a conflict of interest and that is, I think, quite appropriate. It is a standard that is not unrealistically high nor is it so unclear as to be unworkable. It is a standard that the people of this state have asked others to meet and hold them in accord for or account for, rather, if they don't meet those standards. That having been said, I intend to renew my green light for not only Sections 1, 2 and 3, but for the remaining portions of this code of conduct. It has been drafted, I think, with enough fairness and enough particularity to let me know what I should or should not be doing and it is a standard that I welcome. The fact that I vote for it does not mean that I have been in transgression of these rules in the past but that simply not only do I think that they are fair, but that the public has a right to expect this behavior of me as well.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp...Wesely, excuse me, Senator Wesely, and then DeCamp.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, this is a very difficult issue for all of us, I know, because we know the public perception and the image that we have in this Legislature is one of being wined and dined by lobbyists as the headline says and it is reenforced on occasion by media in coverage of the Legislature and yet we also know that that wining and dining is not quite as significant as some people would make it out to be. But it is that image that is important to us. We want people to have confidence and trust in us, know that we have integrity and that we aren't people that are afraid of lobbyists but, in fact, work with them with an understanding that we are the body that makes the decisions and not them. Sometimes that doesn't seem clear but nevertheless that is the goal. Now, my thought is this, the times you make decisions you have got to understand the context in which you are making that decision. This concept of a code of conduct makes sense. It is good for our image, it is good for the public