

January 8, 1986

For five years I have been wanting to come in here in a sweat shirt or a T-shirt like yours just to see what the reaction would be. I wouldn't go so far as a bikini but I might try a T-shirt now if the rules are adopted. I just think that is great that we will exempt attire. All the fellows that want to wear jeans can wear jeans and if I want to, I can come in in a pair of shorts tomorrow. I think Senator Chambers made an excellent point when he said that he, himself, was being exempted from these rules. The only thing he didn't make a point of was why and I think every one of us here knows the reason why so I won't even discuss it. What I find in rule number 1, and I realize that senators that get up and speak against this code of ethics are automatically perhaps going to be labeled by some of the media as not being ethical because they didn't vote for what one group considers ethical. I think using the code of conduct for the U.S. Congress is a joke when you consider what has happened to some of the Congressmen in Washington with call girls and Abscam and all that. I mean, what good did their code of conduct do them? As far as lawyers and judges go, I remember a judge that stepped down during the impeachment trial because he had a daughter working for the Attorney General. I noticed further in these rules it says you can't have any relatives working for you, but what about relatives that you get jobs for in other parts of state government? I think what I find most difficult to accept is rule number one where they say, shall conduct himself or herself at all times in a manner which shall reflect creditably on the Legislature. What is the definition for creditably? It's a very vague thing we're saying here. One man's meat is another man's poison. If I would go out and drink a glass of wine or two, or three, another member of the Legislature who is a total teetotaler might say, Marge Higgins does not reflect creditably upon the Legislature because I saw her drinking wine or beer, or Senator Labeledz's favorite drink, the fuzzy navel. I agree with Senator Nichol. I can live with my reputation, bad as it might be among some of you. I know what my reputation is. I don't try to make it that way, but my mother told me a long time ago, reputation is what people think you are, character is what you are. So as Senator Wesely mentioned in his speech something about image, that we should create a good image. Is that what we really want...

PRESIDENT: One minute.