

PRESIDENT: The motion carries, the debate is closed. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler for his closing argument.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it is hard to approach the whole subject because no one seems to want to talk about the subject. Everybody wants to talk about the newspapers, and wants to talk about my motivations. I have been a long supporter of the Accountability Commission. I think my record has been clear.

(Interruption from the floor.)

PRESIDENT: You raise a point of order, sir? State your point, sir.

SENATOR DECAMP: My point is Senator Beutler just made a misstatement. He said, everybody wants to deal with my motives, so on and so forth. I said nothing in my debate that ever dealt with his motives. I am included in the phrase everybody. Outside this body that would certainly constitute a violation of that law. I ask for an apology.

PRESIDENT: I don't believe I can rule on whether or not an apology is forthcoming. The point of order has been raised about an improper reference, but I'll leave it with you, Senator Beutler, to go ahead on your own time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, I guess we have reached the height of the ridiculous and I'm not sure if it makes any point...if there is any point to discussing it further. We seem to have gotten so far away from the main subject. But I would just ask you to think about, once again, whether it makes sense to make no distinction between totally false statements and true statements, whether the people of the state don't have the right to expect politicians to stick as close to the truth as possible. I ask you to consider whether there has ever been any abuse in the administration of this law. I think there has not been. I ask you to think about the words of the court, the use of the known lie for a tool is at once at odds with the premises of democratic government and with the orderly manner in which economic, social, and political change is to be affected. Calculated falsehood falls into that class of utterances which are no essential part of any exposition of ideas.