

March 4, 1986

thought that was a position in training. I have enjoyed serving as your acting chairperson and attended the chairperson's meeting this morning. As the woman who has served longest in this body, my first four years as the only woman in the body, I would consider it a great honor to serve in this position until January. None of us know whether we'll have another day or another week but, for as long as I would, I would enjoy serving until January. I sort of feel like the widow who lived in the neighborhood a long time, had many good neighbors, one of those neighbors was going to move away, and at five o'clock on a Monday night that widow had been given a television set and some of the other neighbors decided it would be nice to give another neighbor a going away gift. So they decided that if there were enough of them, they could step right into that widow's house and steal that TV away to give as a going away present. It wouldn't cost them anything, it only would be stealing from the widow.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Morehead, please, then Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, I certainly do concur with most of what Senator Wesely has said. Senator Marsh asked me for an opinion, as Chairman of the Rules Committee, as to my interpretation, and I think that the rules in the strictest reading are very clear that the vice-chairperson would ascend to the chairperson's position. I would further indicate that if this rule is suspended today that I certainly will propose a new rule change so that it is in agreement with the one which follows addressing the resignation or demise of the speaker during a regular session, because if you do suspend the rules today, then I feel you are setting a new precedent and that precedent should, in fact, then be in our rules. It is a little difficult to change horses in the middle of the stream but, as Senator Wesely said, it seems like we address these rules only after we've had a crisis situation. It would be nice if we could look at the rules strictly as the rule and outside of personalities involved. It is a fine honor, and we have two very deserving people here for different reasons that I think the legislative body is considering. I think many of us realized not only the responsibility but the fine honor and, in our confusion about what the rules said, originally indicated to many of our friends, yes, we would want this position because we