

February 8, 1973

CLERK: None, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Any unfinished business? The desk is clear?  
Excuse me, Senator Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President, a point of personal privilege.

SPEAKER: State your point, Senator.

SENATOR PROUD: Mr. President and Members, I very rarely rise on a point of personal privilege and not over once a year do I rise on that point to refute something in our great newspapers. However, as many of you know and some of you will learn, when a newspaper takes a position on one of your bills, no matter how prejudiced that position may be, and how incomplete the reporting, there is not much you can do about it because you don't own or control a newspaper. I suppose the closest ones in this body that would have any influence with the newspaper is Senator Fowler and I don't know that he does but a year or so ago the World Herald awarded me the Vanderbilt Cup which has a very bad connotation and I might say that the World Herald and the Journal and the Star have been very good to me in recent weeks although it has always been my position that you can get too well known. That if the public knows you well enough, they may vote against you just like some of your neighbors. But be that as it may, they awarded me the Vanderbilt Cup and it had a cartoon of the commodor or me, with the cup inverted on the top of his head and so, in self defense, I made the World Herald an award that had a similar connotation. At that time I said that I wouldn't be surprised but what they will repeat as winners the following year. Now at that time I really didn't think they would, but lo and behold, in last night's editorial, the editorial writer who sits in some little cubicle on about 14th and Dodge and writes his editorials, has made himself a nominee for the award. I'm not going to present the award at this time because some other writer may distinguish himself in a like way. I seriously considered awarding this editorial writer a discarded bra from a woman's libber, but on more mature consideration, I thought this would not be befitting of the dignity of this body. I'm going to withhold further judgment on that award, but at any rate in last night's editorial which I doubt represents the considered opinion of the board of directors of the World Publishing Company, this editorial writer and, of course, we don't know who they are, we don't know where they are, but we know what they are, put in bold headlines, near the end of the editorial, SOUTH DAKOTA RATIFIES THE ERA. Now, certainly, I have nothing against the State of South Dakota even though it is the home of George McGovern and may he rest in peace and light perpetual shine upon him, but be that as it may, this same editorial writer, a few weeks ago, said that the repeal of Equal Rights Amendment was ridiculous, now he makes great note of the fact that South Dakota ratifies the amendment. Well, I don't mind too much a direct lie because usually those can be detected but I do resent the half truths because those are the most insidious. What the editorial writer didn't say, which I am going to say although the World Herald won't print it, what I am going to say, which is a fact, that within the last few weeks, 4 or 5 states have rejected the ERA amendment specifically North Dakota, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Montana and Utah and I hope this writer will put that in his column. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Stahmer; For what purpose do you rise, Senator.

SENATOR STAHMER: I would like to add on to what Senator Proud had to say. I thought for a while when he started his address, he was going to start talking about the fact that the editorial writer mentioned me yesterday in the paper, but here he is trying