

March 4, 1980

LB 82

SENATOR MARSH: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: Okay, now we really... Are you calling for the question on the amendment? The amendment was just put on the desk. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All right, all those in favor of ceasing debate on the amendment vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on, shall debate cease on the Chambers amendment to LB 82? Well, record the vote.

CLERK: 18 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. We will continue to debate. Senator Chambers. Let's have the amendment read, shall we, Senator Chambers, at this point? Will the Clerk please read the amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers moves to amend the committee amendment: "On page 5 after line 9, insert, any judge who shall plead guilty or no contest to a felony shall be removed from office by the Supreme Court."

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes, members of the Legislature, the reason that says page 5, the amendment which is on the Clerk's desk is numbered differently by pages than the one in our book so that would be pegged to the amendment that is on the Clerk's desk which is the officially drafted amendment by the bill drafter. That is why there is a different page number but in your bill book it would be on page 4. I want you to listen to what the lawyers are saying this morning, that a judge knows no more about the law than a lay person. That is one of the most ridiculous, outrageous statements that a member of the legal profession could make. Senator Beutler and Senator Hoagland know that in the most fundamental basic elementary course of law school ethics say, that a lawyer must be held to a higher standard than a lay person, that actions which would not even constitute a crime can nevertheless be a basis for disbaring a lawyer. This bill and the argument that the attorneys give will show you the "closedness" of the legal profession at its worst. They will disregard reality and deal in fiction, an outright deception to try to get a bill through that the lawyers want because the judges will accept it. There is no way anybody on this floor can say that a judge knows no more about the law than a lay person. You require them to be lawyers. Are you going to

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