

Not too long ago Senator Hoagland appeared before the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee with an expansion, a bill that would expand the Political Accountability Act and would require every member of this Legislature to bare his soul right down to the bone to the public as to what he owns, as to what he does and if he cannot do this, he shall not vote but if he wishes to vote despite having exposed his soul, that he will prepare a written letter to be publicly delivered to the commission to make sure that everything is open, above board and revealed right down to the last little nick. Now comes the legal profession and no one should know anything about anybody because it might affect their personality and they would wind up exposing themselves on streetcars. We do live by two standards. Don't we?

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow colleagues, I rise to support Senator Vickers' amendment. It sure is funny. Here a year ago we were fighting and arguing, we have to raise the salaries of the judges so we can get more qualified men and if we raise the salaries of these judges, the more qualified men will become judges and, therefore, a lot of our problems are going to go away. Now it just seems that a few months later since we have raised the salary and have more qualified judges, now when they do something that they aren't supposed to we want to hide it. I don't understand this. We are going to pay them more because they are going to be better judges but now when they made a mistake, we are going to hide it. They are not different than anybody else except for the fact that they are on the pedestal. They are treated different. They do have privileges that the rest of the citizens don't have. In fact, when they run for election they even do that different than anybody else because the ballots says, shall judge so and so be retained? They won't even run against each other. So I am mighty proud and I support Senator Vickers in his amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I oppose the amendment and let me tell you why I don't think it really is a very practical amendment. The bill reads that the commission shall make such investigation as the commission deems necessary and shall, upon a finding of probable cause, privately reprimand the judge or order a formal open hearing to be held before it concerning the