

January 13, 1981

which is to shackle the Legislature forever because he happens at a particular point in time to feel incapable of dealing with the situation that we confront while we are in the Legislature. I think we are abdicating too many of our responsibilities and obligations by putting rules that prohibit us from assuming our responsibility. I have had people talk to me at great length since this Chaplain thing came up about free will. If you coerce a person's will, there is no free will. If you make a legalistic system of the Legislature, there is no discretion involved in anything we do here. Everything is by the numbers. Those who are lazy can sit back very comfortably and do nothing and say, the rules won't let me do any more. The entire Legislature can say, well the Constitution prohibits me from doing anything. If you talk about raising the level of respect that people have for the Legislature, let that come not by our limiting the number of bills because in limiting the number you are not improving the quality. You haven't said anywhere in the rules that a trash bill cannot be introduced. You are talking strictly about a number. Let us do better homework. Let us draft bills that address problems that are confronted by the state. I wish there were some way that I, in good conscience, could avoid dealing with the heavy controversial issues that it falls to my lot to bring through this Legislature. There is never a time when I can front for some big lobbying organization and put a bill in that is going to be slid through on greased skids. I have got to take those nut and bolt issues that deal literally with life and death that other people will slide up to me in the hallways and say, I agree with you but my constituents won't let me introduce such a bill so I am glad you did and some of you, you know you told me that on the Chaplain issue too. We all ought to take some of the heat but whether anybody else will or not, I know what my obligations are, not based on what some people out in the 11th District tell me I ought to do but based on the standards that I set for myself, the obligation that I have to do what I think is right and if there are cowards among us they will not multiply their cowardice to embrace all forty-nine because if I have to be one opposed by forty-eight then I am going to speak, I am going to offer legislation and I am going to do every single thing that I feel it is my obligation to do here, to see that right as I understand right prevails.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up, Senator Chambers.
Senator Richard Peterson.

SENATOR R. PETERSON: Mr. Speaker and fellow Senators,