

January 14, 1981

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Everybody else has spoken who wishes to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am doing this in all seriousness. If rules are not going to be adhered to, they needn't be in the book. I know that there are certain courtesies extended to the Governor. When you go into his office, you don't just walk into where he is doing his business, you have to go through whoever is at the reception desk, or the State Trooper, or whatever, and I suppose that is necessary. So the Sergeant at Arms, I am saying again, has the responsibility imposed upon him of strictly enforcing the rules with reference to access to the Chamber and the privileges of the floor. So if my amendment is not adopted, then you are telling the Sergeant at Arms that he must in fact enforce these rules, and unless the Governor and these other individuals obtain prior approval from the Chair, they are not to just wander into the Chamber. Now who else will speak up in here if this rule is violated? If the rule is to be observed, then somebody who is on good terms with the Governor should communicate to him the method by which access is obtained to the floor and let him go through the simple expediency of informing the Chair that he wants to come in here and lobby or whatever else he does, and the Speaker or the Chair will give him that permission. But if he is going to have free and untrammelled access to the floor without obtaining permission, then we should abolish the rule, and we should abolish it not only with reference to the Governor but to the ordinary citizen who to me would have more right to just stumble in than the Governor. The government officials and employees supposedly serve the people, so how is it that a servant can have access to the Chamber but the one who is served cannot? The master is more important than the servant. The people are the master, but let one of them try to get past the Sergeant at Arms without proper authorization and they are told in no certain terms that they can't come in here. There should not be different strokes for different folks. So since a rule is here but it is not going to be observed and everybody in here other than myself is embarrassed to do anything to see that the rule is observed, I am moving that we simply strike it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the Chambers' amendment to Rule number 2. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Clerk, record the vote.