

Building and see tables and chairs and whatnot filling the rotunda and some of the corridors for certain groups to have social functions but they are not charged for that and they are not charged because they are friends of the politicians of this state. So if you know the right people, you can use state facilities without paying, but when it comes to the ordinary citizen who, in fact, has no voice in this Legislature on most issues, then they have it stuck to them and we will say it is only another 50¢. But if I tried to get a 50¢ increase for the poor children of this state, the bill is killed. There is no understanding. There is no consideration and suddenly 50¢ looms larger than the sun. I think there is hypocrisy here and this bill is being pushed through in this fashion as a favor to Senator Mahoney, and I am not condemning people for liking Senator Mahoney enough to do that, what I am saying is that the public interest ought not be sacrificed in the process and we ought not listen to these hypocritical arguments about it is just 50¢. I am not going to support this bill and I am not going to support it because of a principle. If it is wrong to do a thing, then whether the wrong is a penny's worth or a hundred dollar's worth, it is not the amount. It is in the principle and the idea that it should not be a cost at all. The only time these people who call themselves conservatives become liberal when it comes to handling money is when they are going to take it from people who are not organized and will not make a political outcry. That is how you tell a conservative from a so-called liberal. I think it is wrong what is being done on this bill. Unfortunately, a wrong that only costs the public 50¢ a piece is not one worthy of the Legislature's consideration but it is worthy of mine. When I see a principle, it does not take effect only if more than 50¢ is involved. The idea of the citizen in this state not being able to have any access to a park without paying \$2 I think is a prostitution of the public property. Of course, maybe there is a kind of symbolism here. It used to be that the going price for prostitution services was \$2. So maybe that is what the state is starting at and telling the public what the state is and that is what I think the state is when it does these kinds of things. You don't find Senators going out giving talks to their constituents and saying openly, "We are going to charge you more money to use the parks." They don't talk about that. They say, "I have done this. I have done that. This is what I am." But on any issue that sticks it to the public, they avoid that like the plague. So I am going to watch and listen to Senator Cope especially and see how many times I can persuade him to go for something that benefits people who need to help themselves by equating it with how much gasoline you could purchase for the amount of money involved.