

March 17, 1981

LB 351

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, again in the interest of brevity, I sponsor or I sign the bill along with a number of others and my primary reason was my work with Senator Fitzgerald in the area of disabled veterans. Both Senator Fitzgerald and I are members of the Disabled American Veterans, even though I don't look like it, as a result of injuries received in different wars and I know his work has been intense in that field over the years and I urge you to advance the bill today.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, because I will not vote to name a building after somebody who is living, I have to make it clear that my failure to vote on this bill has nothing to do with an attitude that I have toward Senator Fitzgerald but there come times and circumstances when we have to do things that are unpleasant for us, that are distasteful, and the easiest thing would be to avoid the issue and do what everybody else would expect us to do. I am sure Tom will understand my position on this matter, but even if he didn't, then I would still have to take this position. I think there is not a person in this body who was here when they were talking about naming that bill (sic) after Mr. Devaney who can forget the strong opposition I had to that measure. Again it had nothing to do with the individual after whom the building would be named but I have just adopted for myself the principle of not voting to name any building or state structure after a person who is living. As accommodating as Senator Fitzgerald is, I would not ask, as some people have suggested, that he take care of this objection of mine and perhaps some other Senators by giving up the ghost. That is quite a bit to ask of somebody just to have a building named when he will get enough votes to have it named for him anyway. But, Tom, you know that I wouldn't be who I am if I violated what I honestly believe even for you and I hope you understand, but if you don't, then I still have to do that which is right for me to do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely. You have an amendment.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, I do have an amendment which deals with the concerns of Senator Chambers which would limit the present exclusion of naming a building for any living elected official or citizen of the state, reasserting that except for the naming of this veterans home for Tom Fitzgerald, but in the interest of time, I will withdraw that amendment at this time, and ask that it be printed in the