

April 29, 1981

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SENATOR DeSAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I understand from observation yesterday, Senator Hoagland was allowed a little extra time when he gave his presentation and I would like the indulgence of the body for a little extra time if I need it in making my opening presentation on this and if that were refused, I would ask permission from maybe the next speaker but anyway, I think you get ten to start, don't you, on a motion? Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I spoke almost nothing on this issue up to this point. I want to commend Senator Beutler for I think raising the level of discussion to where it should be, the philosophical issue, the matter of what is good, bad, workable, unworkable, whether issues and problems are highlighted and then corrections offered here. I have had a position over the years. I have defended it pretty staunchly and I would like to offer you a defense of that position today and an explanation that I have given before in essence by telling you or comparing what I think we are up against or dealing with, with another matter. I will tell you a bit of a story. On January 7, 1949, the Washington Press Corps which does this particular thing annually, had a vote as to who was the absolutely worst United States senator and they unanimously voted that Joseph P. McCarthy was the worst United States senator for a variety of reasons. Four years later that same press corps voted that Joseph P. McCarthy was the second most powerful man in the United States, that something in excess of 50% of the population of the United States thought he was saving the country and a Gallup poll showed indeed that and almost to the day, one year after that Joseph P. McCarthy was censured by the United States Senate and we closed the curtains on what came to be known as the McCarthyism Era. So what has McCarthyism got to do with what we are talking about today? It is my contention and belief that it has absolutely everything that "sunshinism", pushed by a common cause today is just the latest in a series of isms that come about every fifteen, twenty, twenty-five years. I would like to take you through the development of one particular ism, McCarthyism, very quickly, show you how it compares almost identical to sunshinism and suggest what the outcome of sunshinism might ultimately be. McCarthyism, you always have a major problem or incident trigger the new ism. McCarthyism, if you remember, the Russians got the atomic bomb because some public employees leaked the secret here in the United States to the Russians. Major problem triggers the incident and a fanaticism of sorts, major incident, sunshinism, something called Watergate involving public officials triggered the fanaticism that they had to all look at the public officials. The immediate results in all of these isms as they develop is that the entire group, in that case it was public employees,

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