

they mean use the kind of confused, nice language which does not precisely identify what it is we are talking about. Now I heard Senator Higgins yesterday say that the bill was to discredit Senator DeCamp. No bill can discredit anybody. Our conduct is what either vindicates or discredits us in my opinion, Senator Higgins, and whereas I had stated the other day that senators and other elected officials should be allowed to accept any money that they wanted, now I am going to say, mea culpa, that may have been a mistake. Let us not let the politicians accept any money at all and we will see how that goes. But the fact of the matter is that we say one thing on the floor of the Legislature when we are discussing a particular issue but we conduct ourselves entirely differently when we are dealing with lobbyists and other powerful interest groups. I have seen instances especially on bills like 882 where the lobbyists were pressing so hard against those glass doors they almost broke them in. Then they would call senators out there and give them their marching orders and you look at the campaign statements of those who do file and you will be able to see which lobbyist they, in fact, are working for. That is how you obtain power in a political setting, not through intelligence, not through capability, not through honesty or integrity but depending upon how many tools you are willing to be a handle for. So the reality is very seldom discussed on the floor of this Legislature although in the corridors to reporters off the record, to lobbyists when talking about other senators, the whole thing comes to light. Well my job is not to be a part of any of those charades and shennagians. I say that there are senators, not only in this body, but in the U.S. Congress who take things from special interest groups and then comport themselves in such a way that they can be considered the employees of those special interest groups. If we think certain conduct would embarrass us were it disclosed, we should not engage in that conduct. My life is an open book. I don't accept campaign contributions. I don't go to parties. I don't go to dinners. I don't accept memberships to clubs, none of those types of things. I would never offer an amendment like Senator DeCamp did which he has cynically offered and one of the people who would be on this campaign finance committee or whatever it is called would be the Auditor of Public Accounts who has already politicized his office by covering up certain transactions in the Governor's office, violating the ethics of his CPA organization. Then you are going to take an individual like that and make him a judge of others? This amendment was not the worth the paper it was printed on and when you listen to the statements that various senators make on these issues, oftentimes the public is mentioned only in the abstract. The public