

May 5, 1981

LB 209

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think sometimes the session is too long? That the people might like it better if we weren't here quite as many days as we are?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. We don't need any other arguments from Senator Haberman because he just showed why we shouldn't have long political campaigns. They talk too long and they go for too long a period of time. Those are the questions I wanted to ask him. Now people reach a saturation point with politicians in the same way that legislators reach a saturation point here. People's attention span is not the longest. So the more time that exists between the time a statement is made and when a decision has to be made based on that statement, the people have forgotten. That is why there is repetition ad nauseam over platitudes and things which when they are said one time ought to be sufficient but it is not because the nature of political campaigning in this state is such that people view it something like a carnival or circus where you expect people to say over and over and over and over and over again things that have no substance and many times were not worth being said in the first place. Now Senator Koch has prepared a handout for us to look at and I think if it would be digested there are some very good reasons that we would see for keeping his bill. Now if his attempt to sing that song It Is A Long Time From May to DeCember lost ten votes, I heard Senator Pirsch say it won one. So Senator Koch might have one more vote than he had anyway. In all seriousness, we ought to try to remove ourselves from the position of having been elected to an office and view the political campaigns as somebody who is an observer and not a participant in the sense of running for an election. Even politicians get tired. You make people have to try to manufacture things of interest to say. Most of the political races in this state are so trifling and trivial because there is nothing to talk about that it is a waste of time to have a campaign anyway. So the whole time is spent trying to make people remember your name or remember your face. If you ask anybody how they feel about any political race, whether it is from the school board to the presidency, they will tell you that politicians are just lying. They are going to make promises they don't intend to keep. We won't see them until election time. We can't find them until election time, and when they come at election time, they forget all of the promises that they broke while they were in office if they were there before and repeat the same tales. So the public has become so disillusioned that when you ask them why then will you vote for this person or that person, the standard reply is that they are taking the lesser of the evils. What