

April 8, 1982

LB 816

of you but it is not all right with me. It is an important issue but there are other matters that are equally important in the legislative process and how we function. Now Senator DeCamp had indicated that I know how to bring everything to a stop in the Legislature. Senator DeCamp and others know how to do that too and you thought I was going to bring things to a stop on the death penalty, didn't you? But the reason I didn't have to do that is because I knew this moment was coming because it comes every year. Now I, for one, am not in favor of allowing three or four people to have a meeting no matter how well-intentioned and determined what the Legislature will do because if that becomes what is attempted, I maybe can't get amendments on this bill in time to stop it but I can amend other bills and do in fact bring everything to a halt and have you crawling on your knees up to me begging me to give you a chance instead of saying, he is blackmailing the Legislature, he is coercing us and we will not tolerate it. I told you when you accused me of those things I would have a chance before this session was over to throw it back in your teeth and that is what I am doing now. But that is not all I am doing. I am saying that a point has to be reached where the members of the Legislature realize that we function as a whole. No one of us should have more to say than the other about how this body functions. I think the position of Speaker, I will say it again, has been politicized too much. A mistake was made in giving the job to a person out of respect and admiration who was not up to the job physically or mentally. Now we are in a shambles and the legislative process is unraveling. The rules that we said we abide by we have thrown out the window. When you talk about issues being germane to bills, when I bring it up you vote one way, then when it is necessary to do something else you vote another way. So what we see happening these last days is that there are no rules of the Legislature. It is the power of the fastest gun and for most of you there are two or three people in here who have the fast guns. They reach for their holster and you run for your hole intimidated but that won't work for me. I don't care what happens with 816. I don't care. I have an interest in LB 408 which follows it related to radar. That is trifling and insignificant now. All of these bills that remain mean nothing. The process itself is being thrown into a shambles and I find it ironic that those of us who are called radicals or leftists or whatever are the ones constantly making a plea for you to observe the system. That is the job of the conservatives. So if you want to stand at Ease and, Mr. Speaker, I told you in the first place that I am not talking personalities now, you

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