

October 30, 1981

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, while I was speaking a book of matches, too, were placed on my desk as I suppose were placed on each one of yours. I never saw such contempt unless somebody is misrepresenting the Governor. "Calling the Legislature into special session is like giving matches to an arsonist. Charles Thone, August of 1980." He has called you arsonist here...I was told to look inside. "Calling the Legislature into special session is like giving water to the firefighters. Chris Beutler, October, 1981." Well I'll be. Somebody else is concerned about the dignity of the Legislature. But here is a man who can call you anything he wants to to the public. He will bring you over to his office or bring you out here in the rotunda where nobody can see and hear, put his arm around your shoulder and kind of cave in those big old shoulder pads on those big suits and say, "do what I want you to do," and you do it, but then he goes out into the public and says, "when I called those dummies in special session or any session, well special session is like giving matches to the arsonist." Then he comes back to you and brings you back over and squeezes that big suit and says, "you know I was just kidding." And you are so happy to be in his presence of a big time politician that you forget how he has degraded you to the public. I am not an arsonist. I don't want to set the world on fire. I'd just like to start a little fire under Charles Thone's pants. That is what I would like to do. What does it take to stir the Legislature up? I really don't know. What I am doing here this morning and will probably do the rest of the session anytime I speak and I don't know whether I will that much anymore, is to vindicate myself to put some distance between myself and what the Legislature allows itself to become. I am not of the Legislature, I am in it but I am not of it. It is like the contrast concept in psychology. The alien, the other, the one who is not a part of that which generally is. Sometime it is very difficult but it never destroys my pride or my self-respect or my ability to look anybody in the eye and discuss what I have done and why. I won't be like this fellow from Iowa on the front page of the paper this morning protesting that he had not been whipped into line under pressure from various business interests to vote for AWACS. I won't be like Exon and Zorinsky, scrambling around after telling what deep principles I had against this AWACS deal, then having to turn around and tuck my tail and vote against all those heavy principles I hypocritically articulated. Then like Zorinsky go to Winston Churchill and hide behind him and say, "well like Winston Churchill said, I have never gotten indigestion from eating words." But when words are expressed for the purpose of articulating