

January 4, 1990

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When we are on the first day or the second day of the session, it is easy to play fast and loose with the rules because heaped up frustrations come into bear on us and rules changes sound plausible, but the reality is that we create a patchwork of our rules. Sometimes you do, sometimes you don't. Sometimes you neither do or don't unless you have a certain number of negative votes, in which case you do something different. I don't think that is a good way to have the rules, so I have stated my objection and I am going to see which way the debate goes after this point before I decide whether to offer an amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers, you are the next speaker if you would like to have it. Okay, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, and members of the body, Senator Lynch, may I ask you a couple of questions, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Lynch, I just had the opportunity to talk to 14 high schools in my legislative district, and two of the schools where the entire senior high school were there, and they had a good question I thought. Several of them asked this question. They said, Senator Haberman, you have to be 21 to purchase alcoholic beverages. I said, yes. And they said, you have to be 16-years old to drive, and I said, yes. And they said, but when you are 18-years old, the law says you are the legal age. I said, yes. And they said, would you explain to us how this happens, why do we have all of these different age groups? I couldn't do it. I just said, somebody reached out and picked that magic figure. So I would like to ask you, what rationale did you pick out for your five votes on this bill?

SENATOR LYNCH: We reached into the air to I guess gather what we thought was a magic number, and there is no magic number. Senator Chambers is right. However, I don't think we can view, if I can editorialize just a little bit in answering your question, Senator Haberman, I don't think we can compare a vote on a bill the same as we compare a vote to cease debate. One is the same as the other, yet the circumstances, as Senator Chambers mentioned, were, in fact, the same all the time, and that isn't the case. I think we are also, all of us have been around here long enough to know that if you have got a vote that comes up on a Friday afternoon at eleven-thirty, you'd better