

February 20, 1991

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the first thing I want to do is remind Senator Schmit what I said when I first spoke yesterday, that the outcome of this is a foregone conclusion. With Senator Carpenter it was not. This is the Republican Party's work and we know it. We also know how the chambers of commerce in various places were calling senators, twisting arms and bringing pressure to bear. It's very clear that this is a partisan issue. Senator Schmit knows good and well that it was not a situation where the canvassing board at the state level counted ballots on its own which were not submitted to them by the counting board in the county that was involved. There are tremendous differences between this and the Carpenter matter. Carpenter was the issue that year and Senator Schmit knows it. It was Terry Carpenter that had to be gotten out of here by any means, fair or foul. And as it turned out, if Senator Schmit would jog his memory, ballots were never counted by us. His was thrown out because of the failure to file a bond on time, so we never got to those ballots. In this instance there are no gaps in the law as suggested by Senator Schmit. The law is clear, precise and unambiguous. Unless ballots met a certain standard, bearing a signature written in full, the ballots are not to be counted. I'd like to ask Senator Schmit a question. Senator Schmit, you're taking issue with this amendment of mine, Senator Schmit...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit, would you respond to a question, please?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You're taking issue with the amendment that I am offering. The current language says that the ballots in question may not comply with the statute. My amendment says they do not comply. So here is what I ask you. You're saying here on this floor that the ballots in question do comply with the statute? We're not talking about substantial. Do they comply with the statute?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am saying that I agree with the language of the Warner amendment which states very plainly that they may not comply.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think they comply? I'm asking for your opinion.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think they do.