

July 13, 1991

at least for other human beings. He knows how I feel about his issue and at this moment all I ask...I'm not asking Senator Chambers to do anything except reflect on what he has said and how the rest of us feel about it. He attacked a person who was doing her job. And the thing that makes me the saddest about it is, and a disappointment to me, is that Senator Chambers has always been a champion for women but this week it seems that he turned his back on us. It disappoints me, it saddens me. It's not worthy of you, Senator Chambers, to have uttered those words. I try to understand it. It's very difficult to do that. I will continue to try to understand it but I felt constrained to bring it to the attention and make it a matter of record that I do not condone what you said. I think you've hurt your cause. And, as I say, I'm not asking you to do anything. You said the words, you have to live with it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Point of personal privilege, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and Senator Crosby, I don't take offense at anything you said. As a matter of fact, once the words that I stated were published, I expected criticism, I expected negative editorials. I expect people to say the kinds of things that Senator Crosby has said but I place far more stock in the comments coming from her than from some of the other sources. And, Senator Crosby, there is nothing I can do to change the way that you feel. There's nothing I will try to do to change the way other people who have been critical will feel. I have been advised to apologize. I have been advised to do a lot of things but I stated what I felt the circumstances called for, a man's life is at stake. This is not a jesting, joking matter for the Assistant Attorney General to smirk and sneer before the cameras. I have even, Senator Crosby, had camera persons for the various television stations say that while she is doing the smirking she waves to the cameras. We're talking about the most solemn, serious thing that this state can be asked to do and that's to kill a person. For the individual who is the point person for the Attorney General's Office to reduce it, to trivialize it to a jesting, joking circumstance is more than I will tolerate. And if my words seemed harsh, they were designed to be. If they seemed insulting, they were designed to be. I