

January 18, 1995

again, lying, lying, lying is essential to the Legislature being able to function.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I don't see Senator Wesely on the floor so we'll go to Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Chambers, you're such a cynic. I mean I really disagree with you. I think that the legislative process is built on a trust and an honesty. You know we don't always meet the standard in every way, but I think by and large you find out that somebody down here does not tell you the truth, the trust level goes way down and you've got to have some trust level to have an effective Legislature. But that's not why I got up to talk. You know, Senator Witek, there's another element to this discussion I think that needs to be brought out and it bothers me, it troubles me. Senator Chambers, I did teach Civics and I have to confess, I probably wasn't a very good Civics teacher. I was young, newly educated, didn't have any experience in the political process. I would be a much better teacher now than I was. In fact, I'd like to go back and try teaching in the classroom again. But I think your point is well taken that a lot of people really don't understand the process that well. But one of the things that we teach about in Civics, of course, is that this is a representative democracy. It is not a direct democracy. It would be very difficult, indeed, to have the kind of public discussion as our country grows and our population grows, it would be very difficult to have that kind of public discussion that would be meaningful and that would allow people to make their own decisions. That's why we have representatives to make those decisions for us and I do believe that my constituents on the whole, by and large, are not concerned about who we elect as committee chairs down here. They really trust us to do what is best. They trust that we will know the individuals who are members of this body and who will be the most effective leadership for this body. There is a certain element of that kind of trust that goes with a representative democracy. I don't think they even care particularly to know how I voted because I think they trust me to do the best job possible. Now there are people in my district, as there are in every district, who really don't trust me, who don't trust you, who don't trust government. And I fear that those...that vocal minority are the ones that we hear from when it comes to matters like this. I think we have one of the most open, accessible Legislatures in this country and I will defend it every time the