

on his amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I am going to have this amendment handed around, and what it does is the following: It would add a new subdivision to subsection (1) and the language would be the following, an analysis of any potential impact on the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government or any department thereof. What this amendment would do is place on the same footing with property the right of the people to peaceably assemble. We have been debating the last few days the question of how petitions are to be dealt with, the number of signatures required to have a proposition placed on the ballot. This amendment that I am offering goes to the right of the people to peaceably assemble and petition the government. That means you can hold political rallies, you can hold marches, you can do anything in the nature of an assembly so long as it is peaceable whose aim is to petition the government. That doesn't mean the assembly has to occur at the place where government is located. It does not have to happen, in other words, on the grounds of the Capitol, nor within the Capitol Building. It can occur anyplace, and if there are agencies which enact rules and regulations, and I'm sure that there are some rules that can be enacted relative to the utilization of this building where we find ourselves, that agency must take into consideration whether there will be any impact of a negative kind on the right of the people peaceably to assemble. Generally, the groups, who would have to be protected, are those maintaining a position which is deemed unpopular, or one, whether it is considered serious or not, is held by a very small percentage of the population. Since the purpose of the Constitution is to protect the rights of the minority, and those who are weak, who don't have the power to meet power with power, anything that we put into the statutes that bear on the enjoyment of constitutional rights should serve the same purpose, to make sure that what the Legislature will not do by way of a statute will not be done by way of an agency promulgating a rule or a regulation. So this amendment would require these agencies to analyze any proposed rule or regulation. I am not one of those people who will say that I have unqualified confidence in things that the Supreme Court will determine by way of its rule-making authority. Judges are simply human beings, like the rest of us. Not only are they subject to err, they are subject to pressures. When they begin to feel the heat, they will make decisions that accommodate that heat. There was one fellow who was considered