

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 13, 1999

so what? If the circumstances are such that my behaving in the way that a responsible legislator behaves is perceived by lobbyists as dominating the Legislature, let them give it whatever characterization they please. People were very angry last session, and they were sure that they had me in the box. And do you know what I told them? Adopt your rule and I will dominate this Legislature as I have never done it before because that's what I am going to set out to do, and I withdrew every bill that I had introduced so that I could give full time and attention to that. And do you know what the editorialists and other columnists were saying when the session was over? He dominated the session like he had never done before. They mentioned the bills that I gave time to, which in the past I wouldn't even consider. Insignificant, what I call BB-headed bills, little pea-headed, peewee bills, didn't amount to anything, but I discussed all of them. I asked questions about them. Bills that are put on General File without even a hearing because they are so noncontroversial, I discussed all of those. I showed what a responsible legislator can do on every bill that comes before us. So if you adopt a rule that silences me altogether, the only way you can do that is to adopt a rule that silences everybody altogether, and you will have a legislature where everybody sits mute. And they will ask, why did you do that? Because Chambers is too much for us to handle. You talk about unsinkable Molly Brown. She was like a lead weight compared to Chambers. We think about him all the time. When we go over to Billy's to eat, we think about him. When we go down to the pub to partake of John Barleycorn, he dominates our thoughts. When we're in our district, we're obsessed with him. When I wake up at night and I roll over and speak to my bedmate, I'm not going to say a spouse, because we know now that's not always the case, the first word out of my mouth is Ernie Chambers, and because I'm a man, they ask me, hey, have you gone different on me, you crossed the line? And the woman says when I turn over I say Ernie Chambers, and then the person over there is upset. That's the way these legislators conducted themselves and that's the impression they gave. Nothing could be done unless I was stopped, and they didn't stop me. What I'm trying to say,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING