

January 6, 1993

We'll now proceed with nominations for Chair of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I heard some exclamations of surprise when I announced my intention of running for Chair of Government Committee after four years as Chair of Business and Labor Committee. I would share with you that my six years membership on the Government Committee, coupled with an interest in all of the areas that this committee addresses led me to make an attempt to change positions in the Legislature. Senator Moore addressed the problems that the state faces with appropriations. I think that it is going to be incumbent of us to look at the restrictions that we place upon government at all levels, local as well as state agencies. I think it's very important that we continue to provide for the national defense...for the state's defense, the common defense of us all through the National Guard issues, which are also handled by this...this committee. And we are facing, in the future, with the growing number of veterans in our state who are approaching their elderly years, problems in that area, an area which is also addressed by the Government Affairs (sic) Committee. Election law reform will always be with us. The only thing I would pledge to you is to continue in the manner that I always have, a manner that I hope is recognized by one four letter word, and that is my pledge to you is to be fair, to be fair. I would appreciate your support.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Schimek.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Madam President and members of the body, I rise to place my name in nomination for Chairmanship of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I am a four year member of this body and a two year member of the committee, having served as Vice Chair for the last two years. I agree with everything Senator Coordsen said. He's outlined very succinctly the issues, I think, will be before the committee. And I agree also that there...a sense of fairness and a willingness to work hard to conduct the business of the committee are very important in a committee chairmanship. I also think it's equally important that the legislative process should be open to the public, and that the hearings should be conducted in an impartial manner so that the average citizen who comes to testify before the Legislature feels comfortable in doing so. I think finally that citizens should be fully informed about the process itself. I have a competent staff,