

STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY SENATOR E.P.VIBERT ON 5th APRIL 2005

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I consider that P.68/2005, due to be debated this morning, to be a complete waste of the time of this Assembly when there is so much important work to be done.

Whatever decision this Assembly makes on this issue, I will not abide by that decision if it means that I have to give up my rights of free speech; and that is what it will mean if the Assembly carries this proposition.

The place for these disputes to be settled is in the Courts. If either the Director of the JFSC or his Deputy believes that I have defamed them it is open - as it is for any citizen - to seek relief through the Court system. In my opinion, any attempt to alter this situation through this Assembly is an affront to democracy and justice and I will not be part of it.

When the item comes to be debated I will leave the Chamber and go and do some real work for my constituents which awaits me, rather than take part in a useless debate.

I take this opportunity to flag to the Assembly that I will be lodging a proposition calling for a full public inquiry into the activities of the JFSC, which are largely uncontrolled by the States.