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Murphy: Please hold the applause

Iowa House speaker jokes about clearing noisy gallery during hearing

BY TH STAFF

 LISTENNOW

Perhaps he can be forgiven for being a bit sensitive about boisterous displays.

At Saturday's Legislative Crackerbarrel at the Diamond Jo Casino, citizens began to applaud when Iowa House Speaker Pat Murphy, D-Dubuque, brought up the subject of the Iowa Supreme Court's 7-0 ruling that lifted the ban on gay marriage in the state.

"Don't applaud," Murphy said. "As you might have noticed, I don't like demonstrations."

Laughter followed and got louder when Bruce Clark, head of the local postal workers union and emcee of the AFL-CIO-sponsored event, cracked:

"He may have to clear the room."

Murphy cleared the Iowa House galleries on March 31 during a raucous debate about ending federal deductibility from the state's tax code. Spectators booed and hissed during speeches with which they did not agree and applauded those with which they did.

After a warning that cheering and jeering is a violation of legislative rules of decorum, the boos and cat calls continued. Murphy then brought down the gavel and ordered the crowd of about 600 removed from the public hearing.

Brewer coming back

He never imagined it would happen.

Jeff Irvin left Dubuque nearly 15 years ago to attend Iowa State University in Ames.

Irvin now is the head brewer and partner at Olde Main Brewing Company in Ames, and he will be bringing the company's signature brews to his hometown.

"This is by far the most exciting launch we've done," Irvin said. "I'm thrilled about bringing Olde Main to my hometown. It certainly brings an added sense of accomplishment. Plus, now my parents can enjoy my work without having to come to Ames."

Irvin graduated with a degree in biology from Iowa State, and later enrolled in the master brewer's program at the University of California at Davis. Upon completion of the program, Irvin returned to Ames to begin constructing the entire brewing system for Olde Main.

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-- *Andy Piper and Stacey Becker contributed*

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